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September 1993

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 135, No. 3

September 1993

ARTICLES

RETIRING GRADUALLY

Flexible hours and leaves of absence help workers ease into retirement.

By Gordon Williams 18

VA RESEARCH: WE ALL BENEFIT

Although VA research has improved Americans' health, budget cuts now threaten this program.

By Ken Scharnberg 22

GOING TO SCHOOL BY STAYING AT HOME

More and more parents believe they can succeed at home where schools have failed.

By Deidre Sullivan 25

AIDS: UNDUE ALARM

To dramatize the dangers, activists have been playing fast and loose with the numbers.

By Steve Salerno 28

THE GHOST PLANE FROM MINDANAO

You may have the information to help solve this WWII mystery.

By Michael Lemish 30

FAMILY TIES: LONGER LIVES

Centenarians reveal the secret of their long and healthy lives.

By Rodney Angrove 32

DO WE NEED A NATIONAL SALES TAX?

As this tax idea receives national attention, both sides debate the plan's debits and credits.

34

THE VETERANS' BIG THREE

An exclusive roundtable discussion with the government's key decision-makers on veterans' issues.

36

WHAT HOMOSEXUALS WANT FROM AMERICA

Gays really seek society's approval of their behavior.

By Gurney Williams III 39

DEPARTMENTS

BIG ISSUES *Should the United States lift the 30-year trade embargo on Cuba?*

10

VETVOICE

4

YOUR AMERICAN LEGION

14

VETS

50

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

8

VETERANS UPDATE

42

PARTING SHOTS

76

WASHINGTON WATCH

12

LEGION NEWS

44

COVER

Debra Pinion's children are among the hundreds of thousands who now go to school at home. To learn more about this fast-growing trend, see Page 25. Photo by Rick Kopstein/Picture Group.



25



34



39



THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3.1 million members. These military-service veterans, working through more than 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.

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Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-635-8411

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P.O. Box 7088

Indianapolis, IN 46207

317-635-8411

Publisher's Representatives

Fox Associates, Inc.

Chicago: 312-644-3888

New York: 212-725-2106

Los Angeles: 213-487-5630

Detroit: MI: 313-543-0068

Atlanta: 404-252-0968

San Francisco: 415-869-5804

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Copyright 1993 by The American Legion

The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5561 W. 74th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Second-class postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46204 and additional mailing offices. Price: Annual subscription, \$12 (\$18, Foreign); post-sponsered gift subscriptions, \$4; Single copy, \$2. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legion, Input Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Change of Address: Notify The American Legion, Input Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. 317-328-4616. Attach old address label, provide old and new addresses and current membership card number.

To request microfilm copies, please write to: University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. 546321. Re-entered second class mail matter at Manila Central Post office dated December 22, 1991.

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School Prayer

Barry Lynn's interview is titled, "Don't Force Us To Pray" (June), but the gist of it is that no one else can pray either. His philosophy has banned God from the public schools, and now we have guns, drugs and crime in them. Not only do we need prayer in schools, we also need religious instruction in them.

Lynn's ideas banning God, religion and prayer are antithetical to the fundamental right of freedom of religion. Lynn's suggestions are no different than the policies of communistic atheists and should not be implemented.

*Peter Terrebetzky
Maspeh, N.Y.*

As a daughter and a wife of members of The American Legion, I have been exposed to your magazine for many years; but only recently have I been seriously reading it, because I've discovered that your magazine is not afraid to present both sides of the issues.

Congratulations on the July issue

which included "Founding Father, Favorite Son," by Lowell Ponte, about Thomas Jefferson, and the interview with Barry Lynn, the minister and former American Civil Liberties (ALCU) lawyer who now is executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He gave us some of the best reasons I've heard expressed on the necessary separation of church and state.

As a secondary school teacher, I view my task as teaching students how to learn in order to form their own opinions, not indoctrinating them with a particular set of views on religion. School prayer, in my opinion, does the latter.

I have never knowingly prohibited a student from engaging in private, silent prayer to any deity he or she may worship. Those "generic" school-endorsed prayers of my childhood did, however, have a very specific deity in mind. We cannot pretend that our country promotes Thomas Jefferson's philosophy of individual freedom by promoting one group's idea of religion in our classrooms.

I hope that your delegates to future national conventions will consider these two articles when debating whether to continue to ask Congress to pass legislation to promote school prayer.

*Diana W. Bumb
Willard, Ohio*

Great! Bombarded incessantly from all sides by the politically correct, and what do I find in my very first issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, an interview with an ACLU lawyer discussing separation of church and state! Very disappointing!

Barry Lynn has no shortage of forums for his views. Please don't waste any more paper on that kind of drivel. You can't be all things to all members. No organization can.

For those who oppose your position on public prayer, tell them to join the ACLU. I'm quite certain they don't keep 100 percent of their members happy, either. Aim to please the vast majority of your readers, and you'll do all right.

*John P. Collins
Phoenixville, Pa.*

Lynn seeks to make government the enforcer of no religion at all and to banish the name and image of God from the public forum. He is no Thomas Jefferson and his tired prejudices have no place in a journal that properly places God before country.

*Roger A. Kostih
Cleveland Heights, Ohio*

I commend you for printing such articles as "Don't Force Us To Pray." I disagree with everything Lynn said. The ignorance of this "clergyman" is appalling. Nevertheless, he is entitled to his turn on the soapbox, and we need to know what such people are thinking, saying and doing.

*John D. Goins
Cleveland, Tenn.*

The American Legion is to be applauded for its advocacy of an amendment to permit voluntary prayer in public schools, as well as its printing of opposing views.

Lynn's articulate but constitutional-
Please turn page

What Does The American Legion Mean To You?

WHY DO YOU belong to The American Legion? Is it because it fights for veterans? Is it because of the activities of your local Post? Is it for the community service that helps your neighbors? Is it for the Legion's strong national voice for God and Country?

THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine wants to know. We are preparing a special issue celebrating the 75th anniversary of The American Legion and are inviting Legionnaires to help tell The American Legion story.

We are looking for letters, no more than 100 words, that answer the question: "What does The American Legion mean to me?"

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ly unjustified arguments are typical of the un-American rhetoric of the ACLU and Americans United. His arrogant thinking is amply demonstrated when he has the unmitigated gall to say of the framers of the Constitution, "There were imperfections in their understanding of religious liberty." It is as if he could read their minds. His understanding of religious liberty under our Constitution's first amendment, which reads in part, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" (emphasis added), is seriously flawed and should be discarded as trash.

*Roger D. Ferguson
Brookline, Mo.*

Number 32

In the June Commander's Message, it was reported that 31 states had passed memorializing resolutions urging Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to protect our Flag from desecration. I am proud to report that the Alaska State legislature passed HJR 27, making Alaska the 32nd of a required 38 states.

Working with Alaska Department Commander Bill Weber and Department Service Officer Warren Colver, I was able to push through a resolution which had languished in committee during previous sessions. This is an important victory in that it moves us only six states from our goal.

*Rep. Ed Willis
Post 33
Eagle River, Alaska*

Editor's note: Since Representative Willis wrote, Connecticut has become the 33rd state passing the Flag memorializing resolution, which was reported in our August issue.

Phony Bashing

One thing I've noticed about these pseudo vets ("Phony GIs" by Susan Katz Keating, June). They never claim to be what most of us were: common soldiers. They always claim to be something a bit larger than life — a scuba-diving Green Beret ninja Medal of Honor winning B-52 pilot. What is

most ironic is that they seem to envy what many of us consider to be some of the worst moments of our lives.

Irritating though they may be, I believe that these phony veterans are more in need of our compassion than our scorn. There is a neediness and, in some cases, a hollowness at the core of their lives that they fill with fiction. We should concentrate on their pain rather than our outrage. After all, we know who we are.

*John Samuel Tieman
St. Charles, Mo.*

Because I live near a military base, I thought that childish game only existed here. How wrong I was. But I am relieved to learn that these phony baloney combat veterans are plying their lies in other places and are not concentrated in my little town.

*Joel D. Montoya
Fayetteville, N.C.*

The article is dead on center and long over due.

*Francis M. Grisler
St. Genevieve, Mo.*

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Ban On Homosexuals

I commend Ronald Ray on a fine article ("Gays in the Military: A Question of Health," June). Ray's article gives us proof that homosexuality would be a detriment to the military.

*Keith Schimmerer
Sand Springs, Okla.*

Ray's article was also well-documented. Thanks.

*H. Phillip Carlson
Moreno Valley, Calif.*

I object to Ray's portrayal of both heterosexuals and homosexuals. He depicts homosexuals as demons and heterosexuals as angels. Neither is true. I am the father of seven. If any want to join the military, I will support their decision whether the ban is lifted or not.

To say "homosexuals should be barred from serving with America's sons and daughters" is elevating heterosexuals to some kind of celestial platform. What bunk! During my four years of service in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean, I can tell you firsthand that lots of sailors seeking prostitutes came back with all kinds of sexually transmitted diseases because of acts Ray says only homosexuals engage in.

I don't think gays should be discriminated against, bashed, ridiculed or persecuted. Homosexuals and lesbians are America's sons and daughters, too.

*Frank J. Wojnarowski
Philadelphia*

I was on the *USS Lexington* for four years. I hitchhiked from Seattle to Eugene, Ore., and have been picked up by gays, and they tried everything they could to get me to go to their parties. The same way when I was in San Diego. There were gays trying to get men in uniform to their parties. So, I do not believe there should be gays in the military.

*■ Dick Olson
Troy, Idaho*

I urge you to continue your exposé of the homosexual community and resist gays in the military. The Ameri-

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MAKING THE RIGHT THINGS HAPPEN FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION

IN VIEW of The American Legion's successes this year, I find myself tempted to talk about the past:

Our efforts to keep the VA medical system strong; our push to resolve the POW/MIA issue and help their families; our drives to protect the U.S. Flag and to help children and youth; and our mission to toll the bells of caution as America's military forces begin to ring hollow.

But in this, my last message, I want to talk about the future. As former Senate Chaplain Peter Marshall once said in prayer, "Let us not be content to wait and see what will happen, but give us the determination to make the right things happen."

Legionnaires, we must continue to have that determination. We must continue to make the right things happen for veterans and their families. We have always done this consistently and successfully.

We now, however, have an opportunity to make our forces even stronger.

Working to serve you at our national headquarters in Indianapolis, at our Washington Office, and in our 58 Departments, there are many generations of veterans: World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and Gulf War. It's wonderful to see such a wealth of experience channeled into one force fighting for veterans.

I have seen the same thing at many of our 16,000 Posts across the country, but I want every single Post, from Kodiak, Ala. to Brooklyn, N.Y., to strive for this multi-generation teamwork.

What I'm saying is that World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans must share their experience with veterans of Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and the Gulf War. Our Preamble is but an index to our responsibilities.

Older Legionnaires carry in their



National Cmdr. Roger A. Munson

heads the "hows" and the "whys" that created the Legion as well as the "hows" and "whys" that keep it going. New generations of veterans need to be taught these unwritten lessons, and they shouldn't have to rediscover what many years of Legion experience has already uncovered.

My 47 years in the Legion will not go to the waste basket of history, and neither should yours. I hope you will join me in bringing new generations of veterans into The American Legion.

AS WE EMBARK on our 75th year, we have a responsibility to pass the torch of Legion leadership one step at a time—not so fast that Legion leadership is not earned, but not so slow that the next generation feels frustrated.

We've made a good beginning, but there is a long way to go. Balancing the wants of both the defenders of the old and the supporters of the new will take time and hard work. But we will do it. We must.

Other challenges lie ahead also.

- The end of the Cold War has

caused many to question the need for the nation-building functions of The American Legion: national security, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, and Americanism. But maintaining peace requires these forces as much as does making war.

As former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles once said: "Peace will never be won if men reserve for war their greatest efforts. Peace, too, requires well-directed and sustained sacrificial endeavor."

It is nonetheless difficult to convince many in Congress that taking care of veterans is as important in peace as it is in war. It's too easy to forget the sacrifices that veterans are asked to make when the guns are silent.

- When the crackle of gunfire and the deafening blasts of artillery awaken the conscience of Congress, it may be too late to field an effective fighting force. The world is not a safe place for a toothless tiger, but that is what we may become.

The downsizing of our military is underway and it is hurting manpower and weapons assets. The Legion is trying to get Congress to hold the line on defense cuts.

- And this year, the voices of the Legion helped get a \$1 billion increase for the VA medical care budget—a success I am proud of. But because this only permits a status quo, our challenge is—still—to obtain VA access for all veterans.

We can't stand still. I began my term as your National Commander by urging you not to stand still. And I want to end my year by thanking you for listening.

On behalf of my wife, Jane, and my family, thank you for making this a successful year. Thank you for making the Legion a part of your community's life. And thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your National Commander. God bless you. And God bless America. □

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SHOULD THE UNITED STATES LIFT THE 30-YEAR TRADE EMBARGO ON CUBA?

Rep. Charles B. Rangel, (D-New York)

It's time to end the 30-year trade embargo with Cuba. My bill, the Free Trade with Cuba Act, would remove all restrictions on trade and investments, travel and communications with Cuba, preserving the President's authority to reimpose the ban on national security items.

YES



The bill would also lift the controversial embargo on trade with Cuba by foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies and clear the way for unrestricted sale and donation of foods and pharmaceuticals. Finally, the bill would urge the President to enter negotiations with Cuba to settle claims of U.S. companies (nearly \$2 billion), as well as to secure protection of internationally recognized human rights.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, its military and economic sponsor, Cuba poses no threat to the United States. Instead, American business is stymied while our competitors are laying the groundwork for what many experts see as the beginning of Cuba's gradual, but inevitable, transformation to a free-enterprise system.

It's time to open Cuba's \$6 billion market to U.S. business, already losing some \$2 billion in exports this year alone. A potential \$400 million in grain sales, \$90 million in medical supplies, \$100 million in fertilizers and pesticides, and \$40 million in telephone equipment are among the annual losses projected by a study by Johns Hopkins University.

Foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies will also be allowed to resume business with Cuba. The U.S. ban on such trade enacted last year is deeply resented by our allies and condemned by the United Nations as an attempt to impose our foreign policy on Cuban soil. This provision will cost American-owned companies nearly \$1 billion in sales this year. Most favored nation status would be withheld as would participation on the Caribbean Initiative.

We must continue to condemn violations of human rights and prod the Cuban government to liberalize, much as we do with China, Guatemala and Syria. But we must cease punishing the Cuban people out of dislike for their government.

The irony and danger of our continued policy of isolating Cuba should not be missed. It puts us — rather than them —

at odds with the rest of the world. And in the event of total collapse or violent upheaval in Cuba, we, who tried hardest to provoke it, will become hosts to the fleeing refugees. ☐

Rep. Robert G. Torricelli (D-New Jersey)



NO

The impact of the Cuban Democracy Act (CDA), since it was signed into law by President Bush, demonstrates why we were correct in proposing a policy of toughness toward Castro and support for the Cuban people in the original bill.

First, the features of the CDA that has had the most economic impact on Cuba are its two shipping provisions. These provisions, which have the effect of forcing shippers doing business with Cuba to exclude other ports of call on their way to or from Cuba, have significantly raised the cost of transportation to Cuba.

Second, the Mack amendment provision of the bill, prohibiting third country U.S. subsidiary trade with Cuba, has also had a significant impact. Before the CDA, Cuba was seeking more and more goods from U.S. subsidiaries overseas. Thus, with no change in the Castro regime's behavior toward its own people, the U.S. embargo against Cuba was being gradually eroded.

Most of the items purchased from U.S. subsidiaries were highly fungible goods, available from many sources. Castro's claim, therefore, that the subsidiary ban is responsible for shortages in Cuba is nonsense.

Third, despite the arguments of many, steps to open up communications with Cuba were made more politically viable by the CDA. The CDA exempts trade in telecommunications services from the subsidiary ban. U.S. companies have responded enthusiastically to this change in the policy and politics of telecommunications services.

Another change promoted by the bill has been a significant increase in donations of food and medicine to Cuba. Although technically legal for some time, such donations were discouraged by policymakers and few occurred. Now both Democrats and Republicans agree on the importance of humanitarian support for the Cuban people, and the amount of goods flowing to Cuba is increasing.

Time is running out on the Castro dictatorship. It is the Cuban people themselves who will undertake the burdens necessary to bring about this change. But for the sake of the Cuban people and in the best interests of the United

States, we must work harder than ever to encourage as rapid and peaceful a transition as possible in Cuba. The Cuban Democracy Act makes our task easier. ☐

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ATF To Go

After all the investigations of the Waco tragedy are done, there is a good chance that the controversial Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) will be closed down. Rival agencies have always coveted ATF's responsibilities, and the administration is expected to seek legislation transferring ATF people to the Secret Service and Customs, a move that could save \$16 million a year.

Powell In Demand

One of the hottest commercial prospects this fall could very well be Army Gen. Colin Powell, retiring chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Negotiations are underway for a movie version of his biography, *Sacred Honor*. Powell, who retires Sept. 30, will also hit the speaking trail, earning a reported \$60,000 per speech.

Senators In Trouble

Conservatives are predicting a primary challenge to one of their own — Utah Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch, who is up for re-election next year.

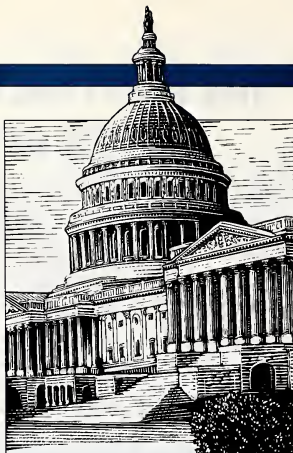
Usually a reliable conservative voice, Hatch has surprised observers by approving many of the Clinton administration's liberal appointments, most notably Sheldon Hackney, a friend of the First Lady who was tapped as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

One critic charges that Hatch "doesn't want to offend anybody close to the Clintons, or close to the Justice Department" because of his ties to the crime-riddled Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). According to the critic, Hatch is reluctant to challenge anyone in a position to influence a case against him. Hatch has acknowledged contacts with BCCI officials, and he publicly defended a BCCI plea agreement in a drug money-laundering indictment. But he denies any impropriety or going soft on the administration.

Meanwhile, on the Democratic side of the aisle, Carol Moseley-Braun, the first black woman in the Senate, is being accused of having controversial foreign links.

An expensive post-election trip to South Africa landed her in hot water

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events and other publications.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

with the press, which questioned the cost and financial arrangements. Then it was learned that her fiancé and former campaign manager, Kgosie Matthews, is a political operative with strong family ties to the African National Congress (ANC), the black group poised to take power in South Africa. Matthews, now a Washington consultant, is a native of South Africa. His grandfather and father were prominent ANC leaders.

These political connections leave Moseley-Braun open to conflict-of-interest charges if the senator proceeds with reported plans to offer a massive aid package for South Africa. Her office had no comment.

NAFTA and Drugs

Labor and environmental objections to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) are being overridden by concerns about illegal drugs, which we predicted in this column in March. A bipartisan group of House members, led by Marcy Kaptur of Ohio and Helen Delich Bentley of Maryland, is demanding that the treaty be rewritten to guard against an increase in drug smuggling across the Mexican-U.S. border.

The controversy surfaced when *The New York Times* cited an intelligence

document reporting that Mexican drug smugglers are buying factories, warehouses and trucks to facilitate drug trafficking across the U.S. border if the treaty goes through.

The fear is that under NAFTA reduced border checks would let Mexican truckers drive their uninspected rigs throughout America.

NAFTA opponents say treaty negotiators "committed an appalling oversight" when they neglected even to discuss the illegal drug trade. NAFTA defenders call the issue a red herring, insisting that the increase in drugs would be negligible.

Bradley Vs. China

New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley's effort to deny China the Summer Olympics in 2000 has put the administration in a very uncomfortable and embarrassing position. Bradley, an Olympic basketball gold medalist, announced his opposition to China's bid after the administration extended the communist country's Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) denounced Bradley's move, saying it made no sense to deny China access to sports, but not trade.

The administration's trade action, which continued the policy of the Bush administration, was attacked as a violation of President Clinton's campaign promise not to seek MFN status without first seeking improvements in China's human rights record.

Bradley said the evidence is overwhelming that China continues to imprison and torture dissidents. The IOC will announce the host site of the 2000 games this month.

TV Violence Backlash

The television industry's decision to use advisories and ratings on violent shows is being denounced as a sham. Critics note that the so-called Advance Parental Advisory Plan does nothing to reduce the level of violence on television, and it does not apply to syndicated programs or children's cartoons.

Expect some members of Congress to proceed with legislation mandating what programmers can show. Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association, is hoping to avert legislation by holding meetings with movie and television producers to seek a reduction in "overt violence." □

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P O W / M I A S

Roads To Remembrance



IN MEMORY—Gulf War veteran Pamela Brashear of Post 88, Turlock, Calif., honors her father, a Korean War MIA, at San Joaquin National Cemetery.

America will never forget its POW/MIAs and their families because of the work being done by these Legionnaires.

WHILE THE true stories of America's Vietnam War POW/MIAs may be buried forever along the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail, there is a road in Florida that is keeping their memory "alive": Interstate Highway US1-A-1.

From Key West to the Georgia border, US1-A-1 is known as *POW's & MIA's Memorial Highway*. And if Legionnaire Jose N. Proenza-Sanfiel has his way, interconnecting Interstates across the country — at least one in each state — will be renamed in honor of America's missing GIs.

More than 80,000 Americans are still listed as unaccounted for: over 2,000 from the Vietnam War; more than 8,000 from Korea; and over 70,000 from World War II.

"These Interstates, as strong Ameri-

can veins, would crisscross at the imaginary heart of America, indicating to anyone who can read a map that America — as a nation — has not forgotten our POWs or MIAs," says Proenza-Sanfiel, a Vietnam-era Marine Corps veteran.

Proenza-Sanfiel is the driving force behind POW's & MIA's Project Interstate. His idea calls for each state to select one or more of its interstate highways to receive the name *POW's & MIA's Memorial Highway*, as has been done in Florida. Senate bill S.900, endorses his plan.

Renaming Interstates for U.S. POW/MIAs is only one of the ways Legionnaires across the country are paying tribute to the missing.

According to Joseph English, the New Jersey Department Commander, The American Legion succeeded in getting a law passed that requires all state, county and municipal buildings in

New Jersey to fly the POW/MIA flag.

Legionnaire Pamela Brashear of Post 88, Turlock, Calif., also has focused attention on the POW/MIA issue in her state. Last year, she started an annual POW/MIA recognition ceremony at San Joaquin Cemetery in Santa Nella, a national cemetery run by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"When you have a family member who is missing in action...you don't want to say their name because it hurts too much...everybody hides from what happened," explains Brashear, whose father has been listed as a Korean War MIA since 1951.

After returning from military duty as an Army Reserve medic in the Gulf War in 1992, Brashear decided it was time to honor her father — Air Force Capt.

James Doyle Marshall — whose B-29 aircraft went down over the Sea of Japan 42 years ago this month.

"I wanted a spot with his name on it, and as I researched his fate and came in contact with other POW/MIA families, I realized there was an unfulfilled need to acknowledge their loss," Brashear says.

Brashear, with the help of the San Joaquin National Cemetery Memorial Council, organized a special ceremony to honor POW/MIAs at the cemetery. Later, she placed a marker in her father's name.

More than 300 people attended last year's ceremony, during which World War II airplanes flew over the cemetery in missing-man formation.

"This month, I hope the event will be even bigger and I hope more families can attend and proudly say the names of those who are still missing," Brashear says. "My father is one of them."

Legionnaires who are concerned about the POW/MIA issue, like Brashear, have the full force of The American Legion behind them.

The Legion's National Special POW/MIA Committee, headed by Past National Commander (PNC) Robert S. Turner, continues to help the Legion target solutions to the plight of missing servicemen and their families.

Together with the Legion's National Security and Foreign Relations com-

Please turn page

Reflections

by Lee Teter



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The Vietnam Veterans of America present the inspirational art print "Reflections" by Lee Teter which gives visual definition to the purpose and meaning that "The Wall" has for Americans — not just a list of faceless names, but a place to visit and remember people we love, who fought for each other and America.

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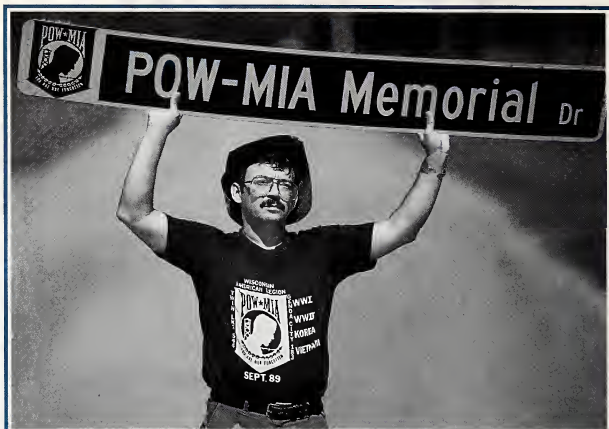
missions, here's what Turner's committee has accomplished:

Helping families. "For families of POW/MIAs, the Legion — as the *only* major veterans' organization still pressing for a full accounting — has become a vital ally in their struggle for the truth," says POW/MIA expert John F. Sommer Jr., executive director of the Legion's Washington Office.

In testimony before the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, in closed-door meetings with Pentagon officials, and in public forums, The American Legion has called for the declassification of *all* POW/MIA information.

"The secrecy must end," adds PNC Turner. "Many documents have not been released, and while some say it's because they would endanger national security, Legionnaires know better than that."

The Legion also helps families get



ROAD WARRIOR—Legionnaire Jose Proenza-Sanfiel is trying to turn America's highways into living memorials to U.S. POW/MIAs. He has succeeded in Florida, but needs help to make his dream come true across the United States.

THE NEXT WAR

ACCORDING to experts, these nine steps can protect missing GLs in the next war:

1. Let the world know that our resolve to bring all Americans home includes diplomatic sanctions, economic embargoes and military retaliation.

2. Establish rules of engagement for war and peacekeeping that protect prisoners and missing.

3. Centralize intelligence to keep track of those in combat, captured and missing.

4. Treat the hunt for POW/MIAs as an unsolved crime.

5. Offer asylum to foreign citizens who help recover POWs.

6. End the secrecy on the POW/MIA issue.

7. Set up a group that really helps POW/MIA families.

8. Provide theater commanders with well-trained and well-equipped combat search and rescue forces.

9. Appoint a permanent presidential commission or congressionally approved government board on POW/MIAs to recommend, plan and monitor.

—M.Z.E. □

through the Pentagon's maze of paperwork and bureaucracy, while giving them access to the Defense Department's top officials through forums at its National Convention and Washington Conference.

Fact-finding. Because of the secrecy surrounding POW/MIAs, few Americans trust the U.S. government's ability to fully investigate the issue. During this period of doubt and uncertainty, The American Legion has stepped in to help restore national credibility.

"We have worked with private forensic anthropologists and other experts to evaluate POW/MIA live-sighting reports and other cases," says Richard S. Christian, one of the Legion's POW/MIA researchers. The Legion also conducted on-site POW/MIA investigations in Southeast Asia in 1991 and 1992.

The next war. In its March 1993 issue, THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine published "POW/MIAs: The Next War." This special, investigative report presented expert recommendations to protect POW/MIAs in future wars and peacekeeping operations, and outlined steps to help the families of POW/MIAs.

A 1993 Legion poll concluded that 70 percent of Legionnaires polled believe that the United States "lacks the

resolve to properly account for POW/MIAs in the next war."

"We're determined to better protect the men and women who will be sent to fight a future war," says National Commander Roger A. Munson. "The Cold War may be over, but a look at our world — Bosnia, Somalia and the Middle East — is a sure sign that U.S. troops will be sent to war again in the future," Munson says. "We must learn from our mistakes (see box, left).

While most POW/MIAs are believed to be dead, the issue of live POWs in Southeast Asia has not yet been resolved. "Based on documents from the former Soviet Union, it is possible U.S. POWs were kept after the Vietnam War and are still alive," Legion POW/MIA expert John Sommer says.

Many Legionnaires, POW/MIA families and veterans remain hopeful. Says Project Interstate's Proenza-Sanfiel: "When our POW/MIAs finally make it home, I want them to have something to look at that says 'I truly was not forgotten.'"

For more information on POW's & MIA's Project Interstate, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: POW's & MIA's Project Interstate, 4230 POW's & MIA's Memorial Drive, St. Cloud, Fla. 34772-8142.

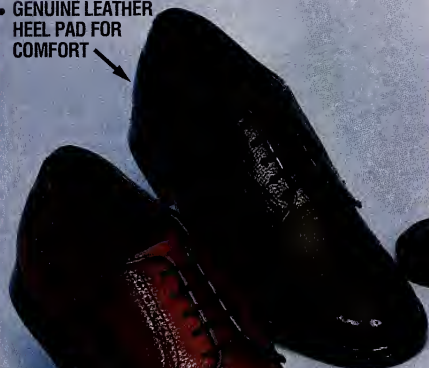
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RETIRING

GRADUALLY



CARING—Freda Rocker's firm let her work less as she tended to her sick husband.

Some companies help employees go from full-time work to retirement by offering flexible hours and leaves of absence.

By Gordon Williams

FREDA Rocker was in her early 60s in 1989 when her husband, Harry, fell ill with cancer. Harry needed more care than Freda could provide, working full-time. But the couple needed all the income Freda could bring home as an engineering assistant in the Boston office of Aetna Life & Casualty Co.

As it turned out, Freda was able to bring home a salary and still spend time with her husband. That's because Aetna is one of a growing number of

companies with programs aimed at helping older employees make the transition from full-time work to retirement. Aetna calls its program "graduated retirement." It lets employees nearing retirement cut back their working hours, for whatever reason they choose.

"The employee may want to test out retirement," says Sherry Herchenroether, manager of family services at Aetna. "Maybe the employee's health is not as good as it had been once, or perhaps there is a spouse who is not well." Whatever the reason for taking graduated retirement, the program gives employees a transition phase between work and retirement. Aetna, in turn, uses the transition period to ensure the older worker trains his or her replacement.

Graduated retirement, for example, allowed Freda Rocker to leave work at

3 p.m. every day — an hour-and-a-half earlier than usual. That got her home before the housekeeper left, so she could take over Harry's care.

Although losing part of her salary made things tight financially for the Rockers, Freda points out, "If I had to work full-time and care for my husband, it would have been very hard."

Harry Rocker died in November 1989, but Freda continued to work reduced hours until she retired the following August. "I was drained after his death," she says. "Working just six hours a day was all that I could physically do."

Aetna formally instituted graduated retirement early in 1989. At last count, nearly 100 people were in the program — double the total of just one year before. To participate, all an employee must do is work out the new hours with a supervisor. "It doesn't have to go to anyone higher for approval," says Herchenroether.

Employees who opt for graduated retirement are paid for the hours they work, but benefits that are based on salary — such as life insurance — are trimmed back. The employee, however, still has all medical benefits.

Even the reduced pay of graduated retirement is part of preparing for retirement. "They're testing out how they can live on a little less income," says Herchenroether.

In theory, an employee could opt for graduated retirement at almost any age. In practice, Aetna cautions employees against trying it for longer than three years preceding retirement. That's because Aetna bases its pensions on the highest five-year earnings during the employee's final 10 years of service. Too many years of graduated retirement could cut into an employee's pension.

The idea of helping employees ease into retirement still isn't widespread among U.S. companies. But more companies are expected to introduce such programs as the abundant Baby Boom generation moves closer to retirement.

Polaroid Corp. of Cambridge, Mass., has been offering a program called "retirement rehearsal" for 16 years. The company had always allowed any employee with a legiti-

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Gordon Williams, a business correspondent for ABC News, is a frequent contributor to THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine.

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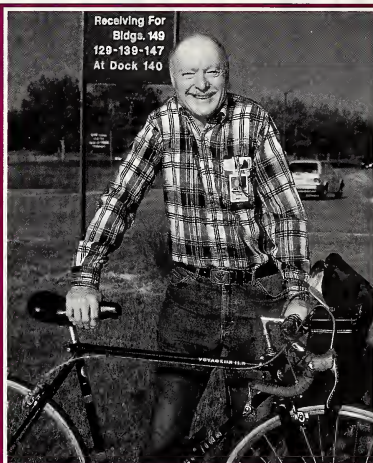
mate reason to take a leave-of-absence. "All we did in 1977 was say that taking time off to practice retirement would be a legitimate justification for a leave of absence," says Joseph Perkins, Polaroid's corporate retirement manager.

Only about 50 employees have tried retirement rehearsals so far. But then a great many of Polaroid's older workers were offered early retirement in company cutbacks in recent years.

The average time out is three months, says Perkins. During that time, employees can do anything, from travel to trying a post-retirement career. "They're usually people who like work," says Perkins. "They're threatened by the idea of retirement, and they want to test it."

"The person's job is held open for them. They maintain their benefits, but they don't get any pay. When they come back to work, they're reinstated. All they've lost is the time they're out," he says.

Perkins encourages employees to spend their time off living as they will when they do retire. "I always tell people, 'you're cheating if you use the time for a trip around the world,'" he says. "It should be a period when you sample life with its tedium and lack of structure—the way it will be when



EASY OUT—Raymond Yorkey prepared for retirement by switching to a less stressful job.

you retire."

Perkins points to one former Polaroid employee, a highly skilled experimental machinist, who had exactly the right idea. "He went down into his basement and found he had a real knack for making jewelry," Perkins says. "That was many years ago and he is still totally engrossed in making all kinds of fine jewelry."

Planning For Retirement On Your Own

IF YOUR employer doesn't offer a "tapering off" program, do what you can on your own to smooth the way into retirement. "You can't just go from work into the rocking chair," says Joseph Perkins, Polaroid's corporate retirement manager. "You've got to try something that makes a positive transition."

Decide on things to do in retirement to replace all that your job has brought you. "I'm 62," says Perkins. "I've been here 31 years and I love my work. I fear retirement. A person who has gotten most of their structure, most of their esteem, most of their fulfillment from work, just can't leave

precipitously."

Will you seek part-time work? Some companies hire retirees to help out in peak periods, or to fill in for vacationing workers. Will your experience lend itself to consulting work? Is there a hobby you want to spend more time on? Will you volunteer your services to some worthwhile cause?

Whatever you plan to do in retirement, start doing it before you retire. Use vacations or weekends to test your plans for retirement. "Whatever you're going to do in retirement," Perkins says, "if you're not into it before you retire, the chances of getting into it after

Please turn to page 61

Perkins says half those who take the leaves of absence "like what they see and stay out after a brief coming back." The other half, he says, find out they really like work and aren't ready to retire. Some "come back invigorated and stay on for a number of years."

Xerox Corp. has still another approach to easing into retirement — one that works in conjunction with its union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

Employees 50 and older with 20 years of service, or 55 and older with 15 years of service can opt for a lower-grade job that is less demanding physically, or that offers more regular hours. Pay for the new job is halfway between what the old job paid and what the normal scale for the new job would be. A dozen people are in this program now. Nearly 100 have tried it since it was adopted in 1983.

Raymond Yorkey, 62, had spent his years with Xerox as a machinist. "Around the time I was 55, I couldn't stand doing machine work anymore," he says. "I had high blood pressure and all the things that go with stress."

Yorkey looked into early retirement, but decided he couldn't live on the pension he would earn if he retired at 55. Instead, he asked for a less stressful job, with more stable hours. It took time, but when Yorkey was 58, he was given a job on the loading dock. He now works as a shipping and receiving clerk at the Xerox plant in Rochester, N.Y. What he gave up was around \$1 an hour in pay. What he has gained was regular working hours. "That's something I've never had in my working life before," he says. "I've always worked shift work and weekends." Yorkey says that his health is much improved. "My blood pressure has gone down. My health is probably better than it has been in quite a few years because there is no real stress."

Yorkey could retire now, but with his new job, he thinks he'll probably stay until he turns 65. He looks at friends at other companies who jumped into retirement and now regret it. "It isn't the money," he says. "But just how much golf can you play?" □

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Worse, when VA research takes the hit, VA's hospitals and labs risk losing many highly-skilled doctors.

"They come to VA, and more importantly, stay with VA because of the research," Dr. Mickey says. He notes that VA physicians could earn 30 percent more at university hospitals and about 50 percent more income in private practice.

In Santa Clarita Valley, Calif., 20-month old Ann Teichert's suffering may be a harbinger of a world without VA medical research.

Bitten by a venomous, 10-inch-long, baby rattlesnake, Teichert was airlifted to a Los Angeles hospital where she was treated with a snakebite antidote derived from horse serum. An allergic reaction to the antidote was so serious she wound up in the hospital again.

MIRACLES—For 46 years, VA research has provided the world with medical advances.

Luckily she recovered. But no one else needs to go through her ordeal, thanks to a VA research team at the Salt Lake City VA hospital.

Along with other researchers, the Utah team discovered how to extract an antivenin serum from sheep that does not pose an allergic risk to humans.

This discovery will eliminate a nagging problem for the Pentagon as well.

Up until now, GIs who were bitten by snakes had to be shipped to the nearest hospital because medics could not carry serum in the field. When the serum wasn't given soon enough, or the victims suffered an allergic reaction, they might die or be crippled or maimed, said Dr. James L. Glenn at the VA's Venom Research Laboratory at Salt Lake City.

With the new sheep serum, medics won't have to worry about allergic reactions. And unlike the horse serum, the sheep serum stores well and is not as sensitive to temperature.

Today, another VA medical achievement—the Seattle foot—allows a 26-year old veteran to play basketball with his fellow workers at the plant where he is employed. The Seattle foot works so naturally that most people are unaware he wears a prosthesis.

In California, a 72-year-old woman, a quadriplegic, can now cough on her own, with the help of VA researcher Dr. Stephen Linden's coughing machine. For years, quadriplegic people required constant care because

Please turn page

For decades, VA research improved the health of all Americans. Now, budget cuts are threatening this vital program.

By Ken Scharnberg

IN THE PACIFIC northwest, a Desert Storm veteran who lost his right foot in a mine explosion is able to play basketball with his buddies.

On the West coast, a quadriplegic woman no longer requires round-the-clock care.

Across the USA, children will be protected from allergic reactions to snakebites by a new antidote.

All of these medical miracles are the product of research by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In fact, VA research helped find the cures for tuberculosis and polio, and assisted in

the development of CAT scans and pacemakers.

VA's accomplishments in medical research are too extensive to list, but future VA research contributions may fit on an index card if money for that research is scaled back.

According to Dr. Don Mickey, editor of VA's *Research News*, research and development (R&D) money has steadily declined in relationship to the overall VA medical budget over the past two decades.

"In 1970, R&D money was 3.5 percent of the VA medical-care budget," Mickey says. "By 1981, it was at 2 percent, and if the 1994 R&D budget goes through as currently proposed, it will amount to less than 1.5 percent."

(As this article was being written, VA's research budget was severely cut and then rescued by different congressional committees. See "The Battle To Save VA Research," Page 60.)

Assistant Editor Ken Scharnberg wrote "The Changing Face of Honor Guards" in the May issue.

Bob Lee



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when limb muscles stop working, the body's cough center fails, and victims can't cough to clear their lungs.

"None of these programs could have been developed under the current budget climate," says Chet Stellar, Chairman of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission.

Dr. Charles Clark, chief of Medical Research at Roudebush VAMC in Indianapolis, and a specialist in diabetes, also recognizes the sad effects of dwindling grant money.

"Somewhere right now, a veteran is going blind from diabetes," he says. "No one can say when a breakthrough will happen — research doesn't work that way." But, Clark says, with continued adequate funding, it is likely "some discovery in diabetes could save that veteran's sight and the vision of thousands of others like him. But with the ongoing erosion of the research budget, the breakthrough we need may never happen."

"No more medical miracles," adds National Commander Roger A. Munson.

Is VA research dead?

Dr. Dennis B. Smith, VA's Associate Chief Medical Director for Research and Development, is hopeful about the future of VA research. "VA Secretary Brown has gone on record that the dip in funding does not indicate the end of VA research," he says.

But, he explains, researchers have

to adjust to a competitive budget process. "At one time, it was enough to do good work," Smith says. "No one wanted to go looking for recognition, nor did they need to. Today, it is necessary."

Mississippi Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, a staunch supporter of VA research, agrees.

"Americans, I'm sure, do not think of VA medicine in terms of laboratories, test tubes and medical breakthroughs. That's not the VA they see when they visit a hospitalized veteran or drive by a veterans' hospital.

"But what they should know, and what VA has a responsibility to publicize beyond the medical journals, is that VA researchers are vastly improving the quality of life for everyone, veteran and nonveteran alike."

Members of Congress and perhaps all Americans are entitled to ask the question, "Why is VA medical research important?" Here are some convincing reasons why:

It's economical. Often overlooked is the vast sums of money VA research saves taxpayers. More often than not, the amount of money returned from a research project is many times more than the original outlay, according to Legion experts.

One example is a program at the East Orange, New Jersey VAMC that teaches victims of adult-onset Type II diabetes — responsible for some 8,000 amputations at VA hospitals each year

— how to take care of themselves. New Jersey VAMC's Dr. Len Pogach and his team were cited last year by the American Diabetes Association for developing a highly effective diabetes education program which should save millions of dollars in unnecessary surgery.

VA estimates the average amputation surgery costs about \$23,000, which means Pogach's education program has the potential for saving VA some \$178 million a year.

Pogach, unlike many of his colleagues, is lucky. A grant from the New Jersey Department of Health has saved his program while VA wrestles with money problems.

Dr. Smith of VA research finds a certain irony in this. Even though VA R&D is one of the few cost-effective programs in existence, finding the money to keep it functional seems a monumental task. At the same time, he points out, there seems to be enough money for other things that do not appear to be nearly as urgent.

He cites, for example, the National Science Foundation's effort to bring attention to its research in Antarctica. Foundation officials invited the media to visit the frozen continent to witness some of their work there. The cost of the Antarctic research project and its "media blitz" exceeded VA's entire 1993 research budget of \$232 million.

Smith and many researchers have a hard time understanding why Congress is unable to find an additional \$80 million to bring VA research in line with the rest of VA's budget, especially when it has no problem finding billions for other, seemingly less-urgent requests.

It's hands-on. Most research centers have Ph.D.s who spend all their time in laboratories for research. Not at VA. There, it is usually medical doctors who do the work and are able to apply their work in VA's hospitals across the country. About 80 percent of VA research is done by MDs.

It trains skilled MDs. Half of the practicing physicians in this country received at least part of their training in a VA hospital. Who could fill that void?

"No one," says National Commander Munson.

According to Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, "The

Please turn to page 61



VA researcher Dr. Charles Clark believes the future of medical research and the VA health-care system are at risk.



HOMESCHOOLING

GOING TO SCHOOL BY STAYING AT HOME

By Deidre Sullivan

THE ABCs and a U.S. history timetable line the walls of this schoolroom. The day's lesson is on the blackboard. A computer sits nearby on a table.

But only two students attend this school. Instead of traditional desks, the Pinion children, Michael Mary Beth,

*More and more
parents now teach
their kids at home,
believing they can
succeed where
schools have failed.*

.....

Deidre Sullivan, an author and New York-based freelance journalist, often writes about children and religious issues. Among her books are The Ultimate Shoppers Guide and What Do We Mean When We Say God?

10, and Melody, 7, work at big office desks with drawers for workbooks and pencils. And the children's only teacher is their mother, Debra Pinion, 35, who created the classroom in the basement of their Staten Island, N.Y., home.

The Pinion children are among hundreds of thousands who are now going to school by staying at home.

During the past 10 years, homeschooling has been steadily growing, propelled by parents who want more control over what their kids learn. All 50 states recognize homeschooling as a legal alternative to traditional school, though education requirements vary state by state.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, in 1983 about 90,000 children in grades kindergarten through 12 were homeschooled by their parents. In 1988, that figure grew to 225,000 students, and in 1991 between 300,000 and 500,000 students learned at home.

Other sources, including the Home-

HOMESCHOOLING

school Legal Defense Association and trend expert John Naisbitt, author of *Megatrends*, say the number of homeschooled children may be closer to 1 million.

The growing popularity of homeschooling is reinforced by test scores that show these children perform as well as children receiving conventional schooling, if not better.

"For me the keys to successful homeschooling are scheduling and organization," says Pinion, who has a bachelor's degree in education. She uses what she learned from her days as a teacher in her homeschooling program. "We have fun, but we all take this enterprise very seriously."

The wife of a minister, Pinion homeschools Michael Mary Beth and Melody while caring for her two younger children. Following a curriculum created by Abecca, a Christian homeschooling organization, she incorporates her religious values into the teaching.

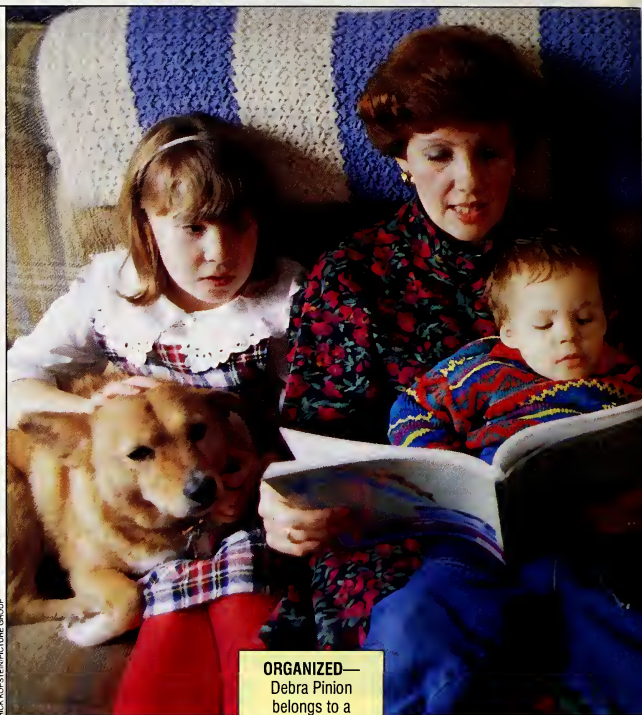
According to homeschooling experts, about 80 percent of all homeschoolers are conservative Christians who believe U.S. culture is in a rapid moral decline, with public schools promoting immorality.

They deplore the fact that prayer in schools is illegal. They don't want their kids to be given condoms by the school nurse or taught evolution in science class, and they oppose curricula that suggests homosexuality is an acceptable "alternative lifestyle."

"Our country is going down the tubes, but there are still some moral people who don't want their children to be in an atmosphere that promotes what is essentially a hidden curriculum," says Sue Welch, editor of *The Teaching Home*, a bimonthly magazine for conservative Christians. Its circulation has grown 80 percent in two years, from 20,000 to 36,000.

While most homeschooling parents want to reinforce religious values, there are others who want to promote their children's individualism and creativity. Many take their philosophical cues from education experts such as the late homeschooling pioneer John Holt, who believed a child's personal interests should dictate the direction of his education.

His firm, Holt & Associates, in



ORGANIZED—
Debra Pinion belongs to a network of parents who teach their children at home.

Cambridge, Mass., is one of the leading suppliers of books and materials on homeschooling to families not affiliated with conservative Christian religion. They also publish a bimonthly newsletter, *Growing Without Schooling*.

But homeschooling is far from new. Other parents have been quietly educating their kids at home for generations. Mormons, for example, often homeschool, and the Amish traditionally pull their youngsters out of public school after the eighth grade. In addition, missionaries of Christian denominations and military families in foreign countries often have had to homeschool when U.S. schools were not available.

But another group of homeschoolers is emerging — people who believe American schools are simply too white-oriented and not multicultural enough. These parents don't like the idea that black history is taught only one month a year — if even that. They say U.S. public schools promote the wrong values.

One of those parents is Dr. Gerald Grove, a native Jamaican who is a psychiatrist in Princeton, N.J. Grove homeschools his 10-year-old girl and 8-year-old boy because he believes schools will not teach his children about Jamaica. As part of the Grove children education, they visit the country periodically, and they recently toured an exhibition at Bristol-Meyers that featured black scientists.

TEACHING AT HOME

Like the Pinions, most homeschooling families have a specific study area or room for learning. Mornings are often reserved for lesson work with the children working at their own pace. Afternoons may be spent on self-directed projects ranging from poetry writing and computer learning games to scientific experiments.

However, there's no set way to teach at home, and every parent does it differently. Some parents, for example, design lesson plans themselves or tailor the curriculum to their children's



Some use homeschooling to strengthen their children's religious values. Others believe public schools don't offer enough.

HANDS ON—As part of her school work, Amy Danielson orders food for her family's co-op.



needs, often allowing them to pursue their interests beyond what they would be permitted in traditional schools.

Others follow a preset curriculum that can be purchased from homeschooling organizations. Parents can even enroll their kids in a mail-order school, complete with lessons and tests that are sent back to the school and graded.

A handful of these organizations are nonsectarian, but the majority are religious. The largest and fastest-growing satellite school is Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Hills, Ill. During the past year, the school's enrollment has grown to 22,000 students, a 14.5 percent increase.

Christian Liberty tuition ranges from \$160 to \$280 a year. Parents receive books, week-by-week lesson plans, Christian philosophy guides and advice on how to buy art supplies or conduct sports and physical education.

Homeschooling also means flexibility. Students can explore a variety of topics because their education is not limited to what their parents teach them.

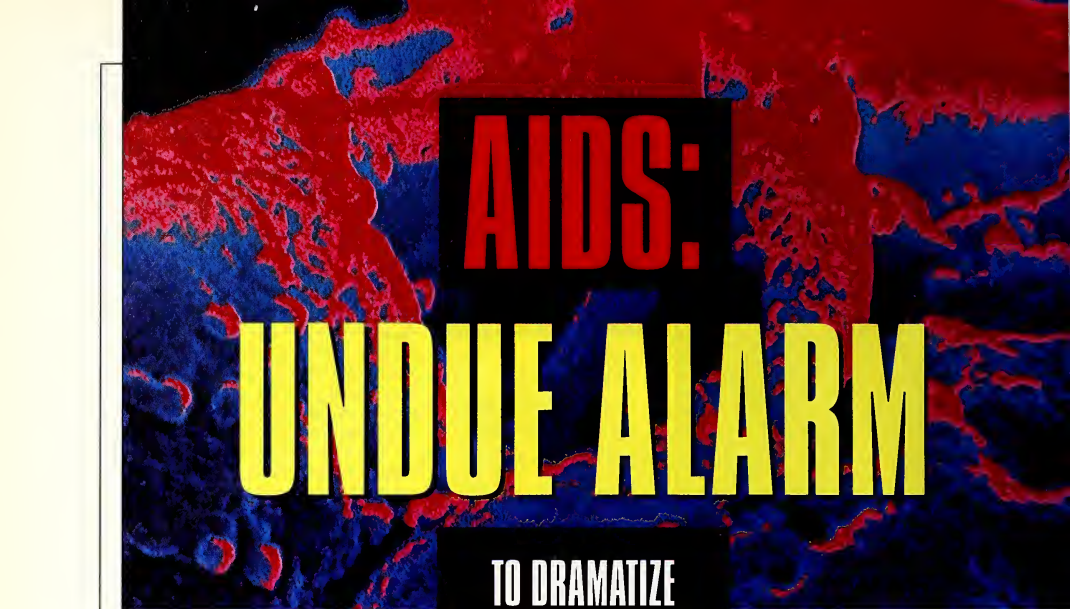
For example, to supplement learning in the home, the Pinions belong to a network of Christian homeschoolers in the Staten Island area that coordinates their activities. The group has taken field trips to the local naval base and the police department, and have gone pumpkin picking. The Pinion kids also have joined other homeschoolers on some afternoons for activities such as roller skating and ballet.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Another bonus of learning outside the confines of a conventional school is that young people have more time to engage in more hands-on educational opportunities.

In Pennsylvania, Meredith Conroy, an 11-year-old homeschooler, puts together a weekly radio announcement called "Green Tips" in which she offers advice to kids on how to care for the environment. She also has conducted interviews with children's authors and co-hosted shows with her mom, a local radio personality.

Additionally, parents who
Please turn to page 66



AIDS: UNDUE ALARM

By Steve Salerno

AIDS. Never in the history of civilization has an acronym inspired more fear and loathing. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a disease that did not formally exist a decade ago, and yet today, according to polls, it ranks among the most recognized aspects¹ of modern life—and death.

Indeed, no disease since the black plague has carried such an inexorable death sentence. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) considers anyone alive three years after diagnosis a “long-term survivor.”

At first glance, it may seem absurd—if not unconscionable—to accuse people of being hysterical about an infectious disease with a 100 percent mortality rate. Certainly there’s no shortage of numbers to be alarmed about.

But there’s also a lot of mythology and melodrama mixed in with the

Steve Salerno is a frequent contributor to this magazine who often covers medical issues. He wrote “Is This Operation Really Necessary?” in the April issue.

TO DRAMATIZE
AIDS’ DANGERS,
ACTIVISTS HAVE
PLAYED FAST AND
LOOSE WITH
THE NUMBERS.

facts and figures on AIDS. The airwaves and newsstands are awash in scare headlines and dour misinformation about the AIDS threat to middle America. Even such august bodies as the CDC and National Institutes of Health (NIH) have not always been above fear-mongering, political correctness and caving in to certain highly vocal factions.

“Public figures need to put aside their personal goals and vested interests and set the record straight,” says Dr. Bob Biggar, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) international AIDS coordinator, who has been involved in the crisis since 1981, when AIDS wasn’t yet recognized as an illness on

its own right. “Don’t try to sell an agenda. Just tell people the truth,” Biggar says.

The fatalistic tone is set at the very top of the American medical establishment. In a *Los Angeles Times* interview last year, then-U.S. Surgeon General Antonia Novello warned against thinking the threat has diminished. Novello expressed alarm over younger homosexuals who apparently haven’t gotten the safe-sex message. She cited studies indicating that 21 percent of gay male adolescents have a minimum of four sexual partners per year, and 63 percent of those don’t use condoms.³

Even more alarming, the surgeon general predicted “AIDS in homosexual men will be surpassed by AIDS among heterosexuals in some parts of the population.” She added that in New York and New Jersey, AIDS has become the leading cause of death for women between ages 15 and 44.

No less concerned is Dr. Molly Coye, director of the California Department of Public Health. Coye argues that “a lot of people who don’t see themselves as part of a risk group are too blasé about AIDS.”

As evidence, she points to surveys that suggest that sexual activity is beginning earlier than ever. Coye and other experts are gravely concerned because teens are least likely to heed



COST — The Government spent 13 times more on AIDS research last year, per fatality, than it did on cancer. (Above, left, the AIDS virus under a microscope.)

warnings about unsafe sex.

Considering that the incubation period of AIDS is as long as 10 years, "Kids now having casual sex at age 13 are apt to continue infecting their partners for many years before they are formally diagnosed," says Coye.

Speaking before a San Diego audience, Mary Fisher, an HIV-infected mother who has become a leading voice in AIDS-awareness, put it this way: "AIDS is no longer just my problem or your problem. In a few short years it will be everyone's problem."

Or will it?

AMPLÉ evidence exists that the popular image of AIDS as "the plague of the 20th Century" has been greatly overstated. To begin with, there's little doubt that some officials have played fast and loose with figures in their effort to dramatize the AIDS crisis. Just last January, the CDC adopted a new set of protocols for reporting and tracking the spread of AIDS.

In the past, people who tested HIV-positive were not officially added to the list of AIDS cases until they began to present the now-classic symptoms of the full-blown disease: the ruddy lesions known as Kaposi's sarcoma;

the rare *Pneumocystis carinii* form of pneumonia; or night sweats accompanied by chronic fatigue and weight loss. From now on, however, a diagnosis of AIDS will be made on any individual whose T-helper cell count (see box, "The Terminology of AIDS") dips

under 200, even if that person remains otherwise asymptomatic.⁴

The indisputable effect of this new policy will be to suddenly inflate the number of AIDS cases nationwide, thereby resulting in an apparent—if factually bogus—upsurge in the epidemic.

For example, under the old reporting criteria, California had originally predicted 10,000 new AIDS cases in 1993. Dr. Coye now expects the revised standards to double that figure. And while an argument can be made that people with low T-cell counts should have been considered AIDS cases from the outset, as one epidemiologist phrases it, "You don't change the ground rules after the game begins just to make the score bigger."

Some argue that the new step was taken simply because AIDS activists and researchers feared funding cuts if the number of cases failed to live up to alarmists' projections.

Please turn to page 68

The Terminology of AIDS

ARC: AIDS-Related Complex. Term for the early lymph-system problems and generalized immune suppression that precedes full-blown AIDS; rarely used these days.

AZT: Azidothymidine. First effective drug treatment for the disease. Approved for use in 1987, AZT extends the interval between infection and onset of AIDS.

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Name for the virus that causes AIDS, consolidating the two names previously used by its French ("LAV") and American ("HTLV-III") discoverers.

HIV-positive: The condition of having in one's blood antibodies against the HIV virus, isolated in 1983 as the cause of AIDS. Because the antibodies would not be in the blood if the body weren't trying to fight off the virus, their presence confirms a diagnosis of HIV infection.

KS: Kaposi's Sarcoma. An unusual skin cancer (whose lesions somewhat resemble so-called "port wine" birthmarks) capable

Please turn to page 68

The **GHOST PLANE** From Mindanao

• On Sept. 2, 1942,
• in the skies near
• Klenow, China,
• Army Air Force
• pilots encountered
• a bullet-riddled
• P-40B Tomahawk,
• the pilot slumped
• over — dead.

By Michael Lemish

THE PLANE bore obsolete insignia as it approached from enemy territory. Bullet holes riddled the fuselage but she still flew on — probably with a dead pilot at the controls.

It is a haunting World War II saga about a phantom plane and a pilot with no name. After 50 years, it's still a mystery.

As dusk approached on Sept. 2, 1942, the Chinese Warning Net relayed a report of a plane heading toward Klenow, China. Two U.S. Army Air Force pilots of the China

Michael Lemish is a staff writer for Atlantic Flyer, a monthly aviation newspaper. He asks anyone with additional information about "The Ghost Plane From Mindanao" to contact Curt Norris, 166 E. Main St., Norton, MA 02766.

Task Force took off to intercept the unidentified aircraft. Climbing above the low, thin overcast, the pilots soon made visual contact.

The American pilots were both confused and shocked when they saw a Curtiss P-40B Tomahawk similar to theirs. The plane was an older version of the Tomahawk and bore an outdated Army insignia — the white star surrounded by a blue field, outlined in red. That insignia had not been used since the attack on Pearl Harbor the previous year.

The plane was in wretched shape. Bullet holes laced the length of the fuselage and most of the canopy had been shot away. Beneath the craft was a more eerie sight — no landing gear.

Calls on the radio and flashing recognition signals yielded no reply from the pilot. Fearing a Japanese trick, one pilot fired a short burst into the wing roots. Still no response.

The U.S. pilots edged their throttles forward and pulled alongside. The pilot appeared slumped over. Then the Tomahawk began to descend. Moments later it crashed into a rice paddy, flipped over and exploded, sending a plume of smoke into the air.

A year later, 16-year-old Curt Norris of Norton, Mass., read about the mystery plane in *Time* magazine. In 1945, he joined the Army Air Corps and was stationed at an airfield on Bataan. The story of the ghost plane was still circulating and he decided to learn more about it.

So, for the past 43 years, Norris has written letters to hundreds of people and spoke to numerous military groups in an attempt to uncover the pilot's identity and the story behind



the mystery plane. Here is what he learned.

The tale of the ghost plane begins shortly before Pearl Harbor, when the First American Volunteer Group, later known as the Flying Tigers, was formed.

A HANDFUL of the pilots and mechanics en route to China were diverted to Australia when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. During February 1942, while this group bivouacked in Australia, the Army planned to break through the Japanese blockade of the Philippines. Several ships carrying food and munitions attempted to resupply the beleaguered defenders.



Among the three ships that managed to skirt the Japanese forces was the *SS Anhui*, a 3,500-ton coal burner out of Brisbane. The freighter carried 450 tons of food, 2.5 million rounds of ammo, three disassembled P-40 Tomahawk fighters and several volunteer pilots.

The *Anhui* ran aground, but the cargo was brought ashore near Gingoog Bay on the northern coast of the island of Mindanao.

Several bomber and fighter strips were already established on the island, many covered completely by overhanging coconut trees and jungle growth. Fighters would begin their takeoff roll below this natural camouflage netting and become airborne

once clear of the trees.

Men of the 14th and 30th Heavy Bomb Squadrons, with a contingent of Philippine Scouts, assembled the three P-40s. The planes were a welcome addition to those already on the island. Losses in the air, no spare parts, and limited resources meant a dwindling number of aircraft available to fight the enemy.

With the fall of Bataan, Corregidor and the rest of the Philippines, many Americans were forced to surrender to the Japanese. But a few refused, and carried on a guerrilla action. Their air-

MYSTERY
shrouds the
identity of
the pilot.
Who was he?
Where was
he trying
to go?



fields were so well-camouflaged that even the Japanese could not locate them all.

During his research, Norris learned that a small group of Americans on Mindanao habitually gathered crashed and wrecked aircraft, hoping to keep one aircraft always serviceable. He is convinced

that one of those aircraft was the mystery plane.

Norris lectured about the heroic efforts made on Mindanao during

Please turn to page 56

• The legendary centenarians of the Caucasus reveal the secrets of their long and healthy lives. It's not yogurt and, sorry, it's not vodka either.

By Rodney Angove

ON AN AIRLINER descending into Tbilisi, my pretty seatmate asked if I would help her with her luggage. "I need you," she said with the absolute confidence that I would comply.

With 13 suitcases, she certainly needed someone.

In return, she arranged my ride to the hotel, translated my customs form and introduced me to her friends, the customs inspectors. It turned out that my travel companion was the hotel's courier, and the customs inspectors were her friends, indeed. They waved me through customs smilingly while making two Frenchmen unbuckle their skis and open their money belts.

Without knowing it, I had just received my first lesson in why so many Georgians achieve very old age.

Extreme old age is legendary in the ex-Soviet Republic of Georgia, a Caucasus Mountain garden spot south of Russia and east of the Black Sea. Presumed responsible for the longevity are yogurt, genes, clean air, regularity and lack of stress. All are true to some extent.

But researchers on the first long-range, nationwide scientific study say there's more. They've discovered an important role of attitudes, as generated by Georgia's particular family life. These attitudes are hand-me-downs

Rodney Angove, a freelance writer in Mountain View, Calif., is a retired Associated Press correspondent.

Family Ties:



from 3,000 years of families developing into tribes and then into a nation.

The key element is *need*, and its fulfillment.

My second lesson came the next day at a small business lunch. I'd heard that Georgians offer toast after toast when guests are present, and I lost count at 15. But the point here was the first toast. The man at the head of the table raised his glass to me and said, "Here's to whomever awaits you at home; whomever *needs* you."

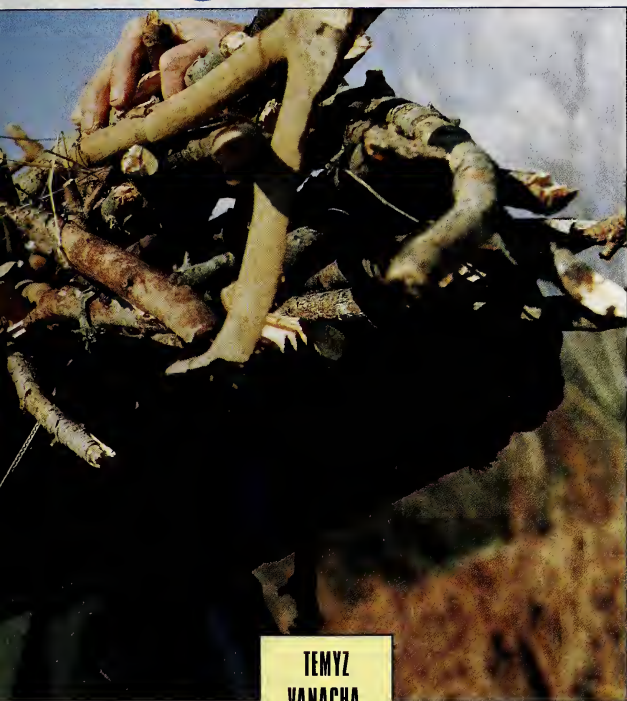
Thus, after two heavy hints, I went to the Institute of Experimental Morphology of the Georgian Academy of Sciences to interview researchers of "the phenomenon of the long-livers," as they put it. In this monument to

Stalinist architecture, I met Dr. Nino A. Djavakhishvili, the director, and Dr. Semeon M. Dalakishvili, the scientific director.

These zesty medical doctors — 72 and 57 years old respectively — spoke alternately to an interpreter who relayed it to me in English. They said that every summer since the early 1970s, they had sent out field workers to find and interview very old individuals and their families, and even children. They verified some notions and debunked others.

For example, age claims in the 140s and 160s were traced generally to faulty records, mistaken identity and differences in calendar usage. The doctors consider about 120 years as

Longer Lives



**TEMYZ
VANACHA,
ONE HUNDRED
AND EIGHTEEN
YEARS OLD**

the maximum for the human organism.

On genes, they concluded that there is no single one responsible for longevity. And they found the geographic distribution of the very old to be spread evenly, not clustered in the northwest where the ancient Greeks and Persians first wrote of them.

But more important, they were the first to measure family attitudes: What do the children think of their grandparents? How do young people anticipate their own retirement?

Conclusion: "The critical time for everyone is the approach of retirement age," the doctors said. "We are certain

that a person *must* feel that he or she will be needed by someone after retirement. Feeling needed helps a person overcome all adversity in life," the doctors claimed.

"As retirement approaches," they explained, "these potential long-livers know they won't be earning as much. Maybe they face loneliness. And they may think they are no longer needed. But if they overcome these psychological problems, they have good chances of achieving an active, extreme old age."

Dr. Dalakishvili added, "Even in very old age, you can be very active and sociable, a good companion to travel with, and good company at the

table."

As proof of his claims, Dalakishvili told about taking a group of old people to Japan in 1986 at the invitation of a commercial firm. "They had a very long trip and arrived very tired. But they went straight into interviews, and soon they were singing and dancing, showing great sense of humor.

"Later in Italy, five of them ranging in age from 86 to 103 years went for a 10-minute television taping. But they raised the pitch of interest so high by dancing, singing and cracking jokes, that the producers let it run for a full 30 minutes," Dalakishvili said.

What about yogurt?

"Oh, that's an American question," he said. "You're always looking for a quick fix, a pill or a product.

RATIONAL eating is one of the most important elements. Yogurt came from the Turks. It contains two special bacteria. But in Georgia we use another dairy product, *matzoni*. It too is homemade, but it contains bacteria not present in yogurt. Each long-liver takes a glass before bed. It's a tradition. But for effect, this habit must be started at a very early age. And there's another good homemade product, *nadugi*. It resembles your cottage cheese."

Then the doctors sprang a real mind-boggler:

"There's also a special interest in Georgian honey. It's different. We began studying it because 60 to 70 percent of these long-livers are smokers. So we did a rat test. We fed honey to one group of rats but not the control group. Then we gave both groups lethal doses of nicotine. One group didn't die immediately but the other did. We are still studying some other unusual features of Georgian honey, but cannot speak of them just yet."

As I left the good doctors, I happened to ask Dr. Djavakhishvili if she was considering retiring any time soon. "Oh yes," she said, "when..." Dr. Dalakishvili interrupted her, and with a grin, said, "But we still *need* her here."

The next morning, after a breakfast of honey, *nadugi* and *matzoni*, I headed to an interview unrelated to old age. But there I found a living example of what the doctors were talking about.

In a 100-year-old stone mansion, I
Please turn to page 63

DO WE NEED A NATIONAL SALES TAX?

By Grover G. Norquist

This scheme won't replace the income tax, but only add to it.

NO

THE UNITED States does not need a broad-based consumption tax such as a national sales tax.

Nor does it need a value added tax (VAT) — a sales tax leveled at every stage of production.

We have a great deal of experience with sales taxes and consumption taxes at the state level in America and throughout Europe.

Looking to our friends across the ocean who have a history of consumption taxes, we notice one thing very quickly: Every nation in Europe has a value added tax, a personal income tax, a corporate income tax, excise taxes and payroll taxes.

Although always promised as a replacement tax, national consumption taxes really turn out to be an additional tax on top of all the old, miserable, inefficient taxes the politicians promised to get rid of.

Gentle reader, take a good look at Congress. Take a look at the Senate and the special interests that have filled the cabinet and White House. Do you believe for one moment that

Grover G. Norquist is president of Americans For Tax Reform, a citizens' lobby group located in Washington, D.C.

this gang of tax-and-spendaholics will take the hundreds of billions of dollars that would flow from a national sales tax and use them to eliminate the income tax? Never. They will spend every thin dime. And more.

As Richard Rahn, the former chief economist for the United States Chamber of Commerce has shown repeatedly, the U.S. Congress has spent an additional \$1.50 for every dollar in taxes it raises. Congress spends more than the new tax brings in because it anticipates even higher taxes in the future.

There are now before Congress several pieces of legislation to impose a national consumption tax on the American people. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings of South Carolina has called for an additional \$150 billion through a 5-percent VAT. Rep. John D. Dingell of Michigan wants a 5-percent VAT that would grow to 10 percent.

The European experience shows that VATs tend to grow rapidly. In Denmark, the national sales tax came in at 10 percent in 1967 and grew to 22 percent by 1980. Sweden coyly added an 11-percent national sales tax in 1969 without any problems. Now it is up to 25 percent.

Consumption taxes are easy to raise because they are hidden in the cost of the products. Politicians love to increase the VAT or other sales taxes and watch consumers-voters turn their wrath unjustly on businessmen for greedily raising prices. Meanwhile, the real culprits of sales tax inflation — greedy politicians — take just a little more off the top.

As the late economist Warren

VALUE ADDED TAX
A tax leveled at every stage of production becomes a hidden cost that consumers must pay in higher prices.



Brookes once said, "The VAT has been used again and again not to make the tax system more economically efficient, but to generate vast increases in revenues, giving politicians — even conservative ones — temptations they find almost impossible to resist."

In Europe, the VAT is also used to favor or discriminate against certain industries and products. The right political contributions can get your product a lower tax rate, while the wrong political affiliations bring your product a higher VAT rate.

A value added tax is a terrible burden on small businessmen, who in effect, are conscripted as tax collectors for the welfare state. It is no surprise that one of the top goals of the 600,000-member National Federation of Independent Businesses is to oppose a VAT or national sales tax.

Consumption taxes would not help America. They would hurt. As it is in Europe, a sales tax would end up being an additional tax, rather than a

Please turn to page 57



GROSS: JEFF ALBRECHT/REUTERS

hypothetical family. The amount the tax experts advised the family to pay ranged from \$6,807 to \$73,247. Only five of the preparers came within 10 percent of the correct figure, \$18,724.

The IRS tax-code regulations and rulings exceed 10,000 pages, making tax compliance both impossible to understand and enforce.

So, it isn't much of a surprise that the majority of Americans feel that our tax system is unfair and that most people believe that many pay less than their share.

Clearly, it is time for a change. And revisions to the tax code is not the solution. The last major tax reform in 1986, which further complicated the code,

has been blamed for many of today's economic woes in real estate and banking.

The only workable alternative to further income tax complexity is to abolish the income tax system altogether. In its place, enact a national retail sales tax. All of our major international trading partners use a similar tax.

An econometric simulation prepared by Dr. John Qualls, president of Micro Economics, Ltd., concluded that replacing the present income tax with a national sales tax would markedly increase jobs, dramatically elevate the private savings rate and would make the United States more competitive overseas. Take home pay would rise over \$3,000 annually for a typical family.

The 6 billion hours Americans spend annually preparing their tax returns could be spent on more productive activities. April 15th could become just another day on the calendar. More

Please turn to page 37

Steven L. Hayes is the president of Citizens for an Alternative Tax System. George Chelekis is the author of The Official Government Auction Guide.

By Steven L. Hayes and George Chelekis

A consumption tax is better than today's unfair income tax.

YES IN 1815 when England faced the problems of a high national debt and a declining standard of living, the parliament stunted the world by eliminating the country's income tax. The result? England experienced an unprecedented 60-year growth period that came to be known as the Industrial Revolution.

But shortly after the British Parliament reinstated the income tax, the decline of Britain resumed again, and continues to the present day.

The United States today is much

like England was in 1815. For the first time in this country's history, our children and grandchildren are facing a future lifestyle inferior to that which our parents and grandparents enjoyed. High-paying jobs evaporate in each day's newspaper headlines and the decade ahead looks grimmer by the minute. What's gone wrong?

An increasing number of economists, politicians and business leaders have concluded that our present income tax system is to blame. It penalizes productivity, inhibits savings and investment, and subsidizes foreign manufacturers competing against U.S. corporations.

The more we work, the higher the tax rate — a disincentive, in itself, to toil harder or produce more. With the government taxing interest and dividends they earn, families no longer see an advantage to saving.

Our present income tax system has become incomprehensible. In a 1991 survey, *Money* magazine challenged 49 professional tax preparers to calculate the correct income tax for a

THE VETERANS'

BIG THREE

The government's key players in veterans' affairs face the issues: VA's role in health-care reform, the future of VA research and the giant backlog of claims.

AS THE nation teeters indecisively on the crucial issues of national health care and the budget deficit, the future of the health-care system for veterans hangs precariously in the balance.

What happens to veterans' medical care and other VA benefits earned by the men and women who served their country in time of need depends largely on the collective wills of three men in Washington:

- Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee since 1981;
- Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and
- Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller, serving his first term as chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

On behalf of America's veterans, THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine brought these key policymakers together for a rare three-way interview to learn their views on these critical issues.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: What changes would you like to see in the proposed 1994 budget of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)?

REP. G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY: It really is a fair budget and President Clinton has lived up to his commitment that veterans would be treated fairly. Medical care is getting a much-needed \$1 billion increase.

But the administration's funding level for VA research would have hurt. It would have meant a reduction of more than 700 research employees, no new research efforts and cutbacks in existing ones.

However, with the funding level approved by the House, we can maintain our current research program and perhaps initiate a few new projects. [Senate action is pending.] As welcome as a \$252 million level would be, it's still about \$75 million short.

Medical research is the best money we can spend. We

get better doctors, better researchers. And when we come up with something good, we pass it on to the private sector so all Americans benefit, not just the veteran. (See "VA Research: We All Benefit," Page 22.)

Among many other advances, VA research helped develop the kidney machine and cured tuberculosis. If VA had this research program 20 years earlier, my father would still be living.

VA SECRETARY JESSE BROWN: Yes, VA research is crucial to all Americans.

For example, VA was instrumental in determining that the same treatment for hypertension is not applicable to different people based on race and age. In addition, we were on the cutting edge of research that produced the CAT-scan.

Our strong research efforts have always allowed us to attract and keep creative minds in the VA medical system.

But if I may return to the budget matter. We want to maintain current services in health care. And we needed a billion dollars just to do that.

In spite of this increase, I still must prioritize how the money is spent. But, my number one concern in any decision I make is to ensure that there is minimum impact on veterans and their families.

Q. What is the possibility — as the Legion has recommended — that VA will be reimbursed by Medicare and Medicaid for treating veterans at VA facilities?

MONTGOMERY: That was dead on arrival. We passed the legislation and it was jointly referred to [Rep.] Pete Stark [chairman, the House Ways and Means Committee on Health] and he killed it. But if you are going to get veterans' hospitals involved in national health care, you're going to have to let us take in Medicare and Medicaid patients and let them pay into those hospitals.



VETERAN SUMMIT—House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Montgomery, VA Secretary Brown and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Rockefeller talk with Legion officials.

SEN. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER: I think a lot really does depend on what happens on the overall national health-care reform package. And I know that is certainly one of the options they are looking at.

If VA is put in competition with other non-VA health-care systems, then that would logically follow. I have warned the President — and Secretary Brown has also made it very clear — that unless the VA remains a separate system, it would be slowly absorbed and become extinct, just like it happened in Canada.

Q. If you had your druthers, would you make VA an equal competitor in the health-care market place?

ROCKEFELLER: It would depend on the level of competition and whether it is affordable. So much depends on what comes out of the Hill. If long-term care is put into the benefit core package — there could be more uses of VA. But in any event, I want to make sure that the VA system is a stand-alone system.

Q. Secretary Brown, with the downsizing of the military going on and thousands of veterans hitting the streets, will you be able to handle all the people coming into the VA system?

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HIGHLIGHTS

Roundtable Participants...

Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery:

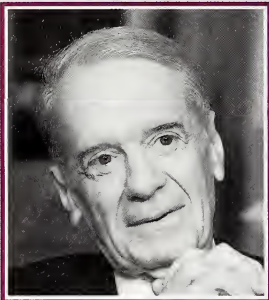
"The A, B and C categories of rating veterans' priority of care just didn't work. The administration is considering offering higher-income veterans access to VA health care as part of its national health-care reform."

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown:

"I support the idea of one-person [BVA] decision boards. If nothing changes, our [claims] backlog is going to increase to 900,000 cases by 1994, and that's with an additional 93 full-time employees."

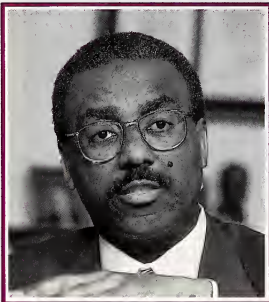
Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller:

"The downsizing of the military is not just a question of health care, but of job training and what we need to do better. We're not very good at that in our country. But I think in our VA system we can show the way."



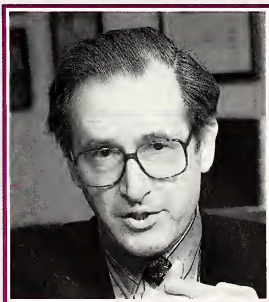
"SONNY" MONTGOMERY

"Medical research is the best money we can spend. We get better doctors, better researchers."



JESSE BROWN

"My number one concern in any decision I make is to ensure that there is minimum impact on veterans and their families."



"JAY" ROCKEFELLER

"Unless VA remains a separate system, it would be slowly absorbed and become extinct, just like in Canada."

BROWN: With respect to downsizing, we don't anticipate any problems in terms of its impact on the VA health-care system. We hope to have a system that's going to be expanded to accommodate *all* veterans. Our proposal is that they would have access; they would have a choice to come to the VA or go to the private sector.

ROCKEFELLER: The downsizing of the military is not just a question of health care, but the whole matter of job training and what we need to do better in the VA system in terms of really making job training work. We've not been very good at that in our country. But I think in our VA system we can show the way.

Q. Is that your goal, too, Chairman Montgomery — to have a veterans system that *all* veterans would have access to?

MONTGOMERY: Yes, it's Jesse Brown's idea and I like it. The A, B and C categories of rating veterans' priority of care just didn't work.

As I understand it, the administration is considering offering higher-income veterans access to VA health care as part of its national health-care reform.

One part of the plan would address VA health care. It would call for VA to continue to offer cost-free care to service-connected and lower income veterans. But it would also let VA compete with other health plans. VA would be reimbursed for its care of higher-income veterans who have been shut out of the system.

What veterans' organizations like, and I do too, is that VA would keep those reimbursements. I think the key is how many veterans would use the system. Many veterans who have relied on VA in the past might not use VA hospitals if they get other choices under national health-care reform. They might go to private or public hospitals.

Q. As a matter of convenience, you mean?

MONTGOMERY: That's right. Convenience, that's the key.

BROWN: That's good. Because that means VA is going to have to work harder. We're going to have to say, "I

want you to come to VA because we do it better — the quality of services we provide is much better than those at private hospitals." It means everyone will be competing for a market share of veterans. I think that's good for VA and it's good for veterans.

Q. One thing that's going on right now that isn't good for veterans is the huge backlog of work at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). Many veterans are complaining it is taking too long to settle their claims. What's the problem?

BROWN: Right now, we have a backlog of about 600,000 claims by veterans and their survivors. Just two or three years ago, that backlog was 300,000 cases. If nothing changes, our backlog is going to increase to 900,000 cases by 1994, and that's with an additional 93 full-time employees (FTEs).

Q. Is the Court of Veterans Appeals (COVA) to blame for the backlog, or is it because the VA Central Office is not getting the rules out to regional offices fast enough?

BROWN: I wish I could respond very simply to that. You are absolutely right when you say COVA has had a dramatic impact on workload and timeliness. The mandate that is being placed on VA to universally apply to every court decision makes it very difficult for us to keep up with the workload.

But I do not question the wisdom of judicial review. I support the concept. It works for veterans.

It is also important to note that, while we have not experienced an increase in the number of claims, the claims have become more complex, making them more difficult to process.

For instance, we know that during the Vietnam era, most veterans only claimed two or three conditions. Now, the average number of conditions being claimed is somewhere around six or seven.

A lot of that is because of the military downsizing. Many people who are being forced out feel they have been victimized, and we have service organizations taking a very aggressive stance in helping these veterans combat.

Please turn to page 62



OTIS LOWE/REUTERS

WHAT HOMOSEXUALS WANT FROM AMERICA

By Gurney Williams III

RICHARD'S problem isn't immediately evident when you scan his resumé. He holds degrees from Yale, Duke and the Catholic University of America. As a member of the Army National Guard for nine and a half years, he rose to the level of brigade staff officer.

Now he's got a thriving practice as a psychotherapist. His lover of many years holds down a good job with a blue-chip company. But Richard, 52, doesn't dare go to the company dances, because his lover is a man.

A frequent contributor to this magazine, Gurney Williams III wrote, "Virtual Reality" in the February issue.

GAYS' LEGISLATIVE

agenda masks what

they really seek:

society's approval

of their behavior.

"If they knew he was gay, it might be held against him," Richard says.

Like many homosexuals, he hopes for full legal sanctioning of his relationship and more protection from laws that prohibit discrimination in employment and housing.

But like many gay people today,

he's looking for something more — acceptance. "I think that the protections and the recognitions that the gay community is seeking from legislatures are proxies for acceptance by society," Richard says.

The hope for such acceptance never shows up on any platform, agenda or lists of demands from the gay community, although it may be the one tacit goal most gays seek. Leaders of homosexual groups vehemently deny that there is a unified "gay agenda" to be welcome in American society.

"To say that all gay people have the same list of demands would be like saying that all Presbyterians want the same things," says lesbian Miriam Ben-Shalom, a former Army drill sergeant.

Yet gay demonstrators frequently rally around lists of legislative goals, and homosexual writers also make the same assertions. Here are some of their



FAMILY TIES—Gays march to make homosexual marriages legal.



AIMING AT THE MILITARY—Demonstrators protest

WHAT HOMOSEXUALS WANT

oft-repeated demands and what critics have to say about them.

A new national civil rights law and an end to sodomy statutes. Seven states — Wisconsin, Connecticut, Massachusetts,

Hawaii, New Jersey, Vermont and California — have passed laws protecting homosexuals against discrimination. Now, many gays are seeking a comprehensive federal law, similar to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits discrimination against blacks.

And they're campaigning for repeal of laws that make sodomy a crime in about half the states. Gay-rights advocates say they just want a guarantee that they'll be treated like other Americans.

But critics contend that "gay rights" is really a code name for "preferential treatment."

"What the homosexuals are demanding are special rights based on how they have sex," says Cliff Kincaid, a Washington, D.C., political analyst. "It would be unprecedented to give special rights to people based on how they have sex. I don't have any special rights because I'm heterosexual."

Protection against discrimination in housing and employment. The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) reports that between 16 per-

CRITICS CONTENT

that gay rights is

a code name for

preferential

treatment.

cent and 44 percent of respondents to surveys of gays between 1980 and 1991 faced some sort of discrimination on the job because of their sexual orientation. Work-related problems ranged from sexual harassment to dismissal to more subtle problems that laws alone may never change.

Homosexual advocates say discrimination in housing is more readily apparent because potential landlords often meet gay couples at housing sites and reject them on the spot. To avoid such judgments, between 40 percent and 72 percent of gays surveyed by the NGLTF say they have concealed their sexual orientation to avoid housing discrimination.

Some critics assert that they don't

really care what homosexuals do in the privacy of their own bedroom. So why not new laws assuring gays that they can rent the bedroom? "It's simple discrimination," says Ellen Carton, executive director of the New York chapter of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance against Defamation.

The issues aren't so simple, says Peter LaBarbera, editor of *Lambda Report*, a newsletter sharply critical of the homosexual movement. Under gay-rights housing laws, he says, landlords would have no right to refuse to rent even if they are offended by a tenant's behavior.

LaBarbera says "That leads down a slippery slope" to laws that might require landlords to rent to other people, gay or straight, engaging in behavior that offends or endangers other tenants or the property. "As a homeowner I should have the right not to rent based on the fact of what people might do in my home," LaBarbera says.

Sanctions for gay marriages and nontraditional families. A 1991 statistical portrait of today's household from the Marriage and Family Division of the Census Bureau shows that only a quarter of all U.S. families are "traditional" — a married man and woman with children under 18. Since 1970, there has been a six-fold increase in the number of unmarried couples who live together, up to about



the Pentagon's ban on gays.



MORE MONEY—Activists stage a "die in" for increased AIDS research.

3.3 million U.S. homes, according to 1992 federal figures.

So, homosexuals say, it's time that laws support the new American family. On a small scale, that's what happened last March at the New York city clerk's office when dozens of unmarried couples — many of them gay — paid \$20 to get an "Affidavit of Domestic Partnership."

The official certificate opens a long-shut door for gay couples to exercise some of the same rights as married couples. City employees in a partnership, for example, are entitled to paid bereavement leave if their partner dies. They can use the document as one form of evidence to prove to the Housing Authority that a partner is entitled to occupancy.

Only about 250 couples chose to obtain the certificate in the first three months of the program. But Carton of the gay and lesbian alliance says it is an important first step. "We work, we pay taxes, we have children. We share the same responsibilities that married couples do. We deserve the same benefits," she says.

Critics counter that sanctioning gay marriages could actually encourage the continuing decline of the family.

OVERALL ACCEPTANCE—Homosexuals want other Americans to view their lifestyle as normal, not as a perversion.

"Once homosexuals ask for marriage licenses or the right to register as couples, then they're asking for society's stamp of approval," says Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. Bauer, an undersecretary of education in Ronald Reagan's administration, is fervently against such approval.

"There are all kinds of folks who might want approval," he says. If laws approve the homosexual couple, "how does society say no to three adults who are living together in a sexual

relationship? Suppose a 40-year-old man and a 13-year-old girl want to live together, and legally you've already said you'll recognize unusual living arrangements. How do you say no to that couple?"

School curricula that present gays in a positive light. The controversy roiled in New York City this year when School Chancellor Joseph Fernandez lost his job, in part because of his bombshell plan to introduce a "Children of the Rainbow" curriculum.

Please turn to page 58



PHOTOS BY PHOTOFEST, MONDO, A MAGNETIC IMAGE GROUP, A HERSCHPUNTER GROUP

SMOKING ILLS MAY BE SERVICE-CONNECTED

SOME VETERANS who contracted diseases caused by smoking or other use of tobacco may be eligible for service-connected disability compensation, VA general counsel James Endicott Jr. has ruled. (Survivors may be eligible for other VA benefits.)

Endicott's ruling was based on the appeal of a veteran's widow who was

seeking compensation for her husband's death from cancer. Originally, the claim was based on the veteran's exposure to cleaning solvents during his nearly 30 years of military service. However, an independent medical expert determined his cancer was linked to smoking.

Endicott ruled that because the services provided cigarettes free or at reduced prices, illnesses linked to

smoking are service-connected, if the veteran was unaware of the risks at the time he began the habit.

According to Legion experts, this means that service-connected benefits will probably apply only to veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam, when the risks of tobacco were unknown or not widely publicized. Some experts believe the ruling will open the floodgate to claims.

Jobs for Veterans

GIs who are being downsized out of the military are looking for civilian jobs. Fortunately, many U.S. companies are looking to hire veterans, as evidenced by a recent Defense Department job fair in Germany for GIs leaving the military. Some 30 companies, including Union Pacific Railroad, Lockheed, GTE, General Dynamics and the FBI, were on hand to recruit the GIs.

About 4,400 GIs participated in the job fair and some 2,500 job offers were made, according to Legion representatives who attended the fair.

Veterans also can shop for jobs by phone.

The Defense Department maintains a Transition Bulletin Board Databank of jobs that can be reached at 1-800-727-3677. The Army Employee and Alumni Network offers similar service at 1-800-445-2049 for Army veterans.

Danger: Disabled Veterans?

Speaking on a recent segment of *ABC World News Tonight's* "American Agenda," former Postmaster General Anthony Frank blamed disabled veterans for recent killing sprees at U.S. Postal Service facilities. "The [veteran's] disability can be mental or physical. There are people that are mentally unstable that are trained to kill," he said. National Commander Roger A. Munson said his comments "maligned every disabled veteran and disparages the character of all who served." The Legion will not let this stand, Munson said.

Shades of Star Trek

Veterans who are visually impaired or legally blind may benefit from the Low Vision Enhancement System (LVES), a closed-circuit television system used like a visor.

The visor, similar to one worn by Geordi in the TV show, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, can improve vision loss caused by diabetes and macular degeneration, according to Dr. Peter Lalle, chief of optometry for the Fort Howard and Baltimore VA medical centers.

Unfortunately, "vision loss caused by Glaucoma and RP cannot be corrected by LVES," Lalle adds, but LVES may be able to help victims of brain damage or stroke, depending on the individual case.

LVES is expected to go on sale in about 18 months for about \$3,000 per unit. But veterans with vision problems — even if the sight loss is non-service-connected — may be able to obtain one free by contacting their local VA medical facility. The LVES will be provided by VA Blind Rehab Centers, Clinics or at one of VA's Vision Impairment Centers to Optimize Remaining Sight program facilities. For further information, nonveterans should contact their local eye doctor.

VA Insurance Hoax

Veterans are asked to be alert to phony information about extra dividends on their GI insurance policies. Veterans entitled to regular annual dividends automatically receive them once a year on the anniversary date of

their policies.

The phony announcements say that Congress has recently passed a bill offering a dividend per thousand on the GI's insurance, even if the veteran has allowed the insurance to lapse. Veterans are wrongly told to apply for the dividends, because they will not be paid out automatically by VA.

Beware of these false announcements — which have continued to appear for some 45 years — as VA is now receiving about 20,000 inquiries per week.

VA says veterans should be skeptical about any information that tells them to apply for dividends, even if their policies are no longer in force. All editors of Post and Department publications should verify the source before printing information concerning VA insurance dividends.

VA and Fast Food

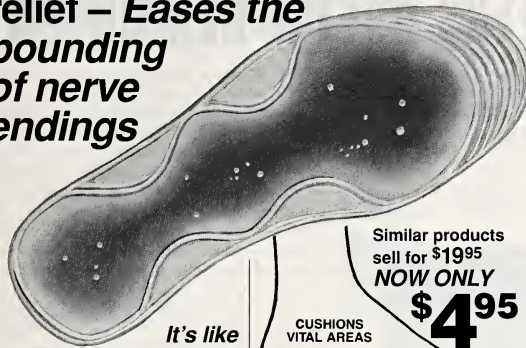
According to VA's publication *Vanguard*, 20 Burger King outlets are planned to open at VA facilities over the next three years. Dallas and Miami VA medical centers are first on the list. The Veterans Canteen Service and Burger King recently agreed on a national contract that would allow Burger King franchises in VA medical centers.

VA By Phone

Veterans who want to contact their nearest VA regional office can now do so with a single number. Dial 1-800-827-1000 and the number will automatically connect you to the nearest VA office. □

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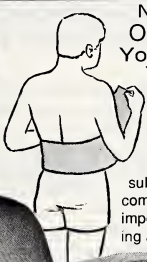
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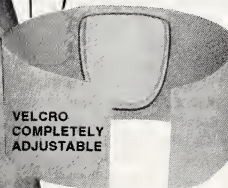


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LEGION VOLUNTEERS BATTLE BLINDNESS

LEGIONNAIRE Ray Ball of Post 55 stood in the entrance of the National grocery store in Hannibal, Mo., next to the purple plums and the yellow-green bananas. Cash registers beeped in the background as Ball handed out coupons for a free box of cereal to shoppers.

Ball was one of a projected 26,000 other Legion volunteers who worked some 90,000 hours in 4,400 stores nationwide during weekends last June to distribute the coupons. By putting the Kellogg's coupons in consumers' hands, the volunteers were helping to fight blindness.

For every store-day (two people working 7-hour shifts), Kellogg's donated money to the RP Foundation Fighting Blindness and to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

In addition to a free box of cereal, the coupons offered discounts on other Kellogg's cereals. Also, the back of the coupons contained information about The American Legion and RP Foundation's Fight Against Blindness.

Retinitis pigmentosa (RP) is a degenerative eye disease with no known cure. It starts as night blindness followed by the loss of peripheral vision. RP and associated eye diseases affect more than 2.5 million Americans. It is most prevalent in young people, leaving many with tunnel vision or legally blind by age 40.

"Customers were real

receptive to the coupons," said Ball. "As they went through the check-out line, I'd see them buying boxes of the cereal."

Ball, Department of Missouri coupon

played a big role in the coupon project. Volunteers such as Kit Hudson, an Auxiliary member from Unit 2 of Tempe, Ariz., handed out coupons at three stores in the Tempe area. "Buy Kellogg's products and you'll be helping fight blindness," Hudson told store customers as she stood in store foyers.

Hudson and other Tempe Legionnaires also handed out flyers telling about the Legion and its many veterans and children and youth programs.

The nationwide project drew local news coverage, again demonstrating Legionnaires' community involvement. For example, Pat Marso of Post 376 in Oxford, N.Y., who handed out coupons for three

hours at the Great American store in Norwich, N.Y., got her picture in the local paper.

"It was a good cause," said Marso.

The project was initiated in 1992, when the Legion and the RP Foundation ran tests in Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota and Wisconsin. These drew 3,000 Legion volunteers who distributed 500,000 Kellogg's coupons. The tests were so successful that the coupon project was expanded to cover the entire country.

The RP Foundation planned to send lapel pins and certificates to project coordinators and volunteers.

"Never before has a campaign of this scope been so successful," said Robert M. Gray, executive director of the RP Foundation. "Thanks to the Legion family, we raised funds that will fight blindness and help America's youth." □



HANDY—Guenther Bodemann, Post 2 of Grand Rapids, Mich., was one of thousands of volunteers.

project coordinator, said he and other volunteers distributed 2,800 coupons in the National store. He estimates that about 1,500 Missouri volunteers participated in the project, which was designed to raise awareness about RP and other eye diseases. About 600 volunteers covered 80 St. Louis stores alone, he said.

"It's tremendous what can be done if you've got the people and the cooperation it takes to pull off something of this magnitude," said National Children and Youth Commission Chairman Eugene V. Lindquist, who helped Legionnaires from Post 303 of Fridley, Minn., hand out coupons.

The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion also

GAY 'COMPROMISE' OPPOSED

ANY POLICY that permits homosexuals to serve in the U.S. military is unacceptable to The American Legion.

"To allow homosexuals to serve in the armed forces because they keep their sexual preference a secret is ridiculous," says National Commander Roger A. Munson. "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

At press time, the Clinton administration put forth "compromise" recommendations from Defense Secretary Les Aspin that would weaken the Defense Department (DoD) ban on homosexuals. Under Aspin's "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" plan, DoD would not ask recruits about sexual preference and gays would be able to stay in the service as long as they keep their homosexuality secret and do not impose it on others. □

Amazing New Product Gives Crisp, Clear TV Reception WITHOUT Cable!

AS SEEN ON
TV

Until recently, the only convenient way to guarantee great TV reception was to get cable installed. But who wants to pay those irritating monthly cable fees just to get clear reception? Now, thanks to years of micro-electronic research, a new device has been developed that's so advanced it actually makes other antennas a thing of the past. It's called the Super Antenna™ and is without a doubt "the single most important thing you should own if you have a TV!"

A PICTURE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY!

Just imagine watching TV and seeing a picture so brilliantly clear that you'd almost swear you were there live! Just plug this tiny 2" x 4" Super Antenna™ into any ordinary AC outlet, connect your TV and get ready for the best reception you've ever had without cable. You'll watch in amazement as YOUR TV set suddenly displays a sharp, focused picture. You literally "won't believe your eyes!" Even older TV sets suddenly come to life. The Super Antenna™ is so easy to install, so convenient to use, and so incredibly effective that you'll wonder how you ever got by without it!

A THOUSAND FOOT ANTENNA?

Super Antenna™ is a highly sophisticated electronic product (like a transistor radio) with a simple function. It takes the electrical wiring in your house or apartment (hundreds or thousands of feet) and turns it into a

Just plug your Super Antenna™ into any ordinary outlet and watch in amazement as your entire house turns into a giant TV reception station!



BEFORE



AFTER

giant TV reception station! It's almost like having an antenna the size of your entire house! Imagine how effective that would be. But there's more, because Super Antenna™ takes that signal and electronically boosts it before it gets to your TV set. The results are amazing! You can finally enjoy your favorite prime time shows or sports events the way they were meant to be watched.

WHAT ABOUT MY TV "DISH" ANTENNA?

Return it! Millions of these things have been sold in recent years because people were led to believe they would work like a satellite dish. The truth is that they're no more effective than rabbit-ears, a loop, or rod antenna – and people have been struggling with these things for years! The incredible Super Antenna™ makes everything else seem obsolete. Just plug it in and watch it work. There's simply NOTHING ELSE better valued on the market today!

LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Electronic antennas like this



one normally sell for \$50 or more! But now, for a limited time (if you respond before October 15, 1993), you can have the amazing Super Antenna™ for just \$9.95. Experience the best reception you've ever had or simply return it within 30 days for a prompt and courteous refund. You absolutely must see it to believe it! ORDER TODAY.

P.S. Works just as good for radio reception too! Limit 3 per order.

RESPOND BEFORE OCTOBER 15TH FOR THIS AMAZING OFFER!

YES! Please rush me the following Super Antenna™(s).

☐ One Super Antenna for just **\$9.95**

plus \$4 P&H.

☐ **SAVE!** Two for just **\$18.95**

plus \$5 P&H.

☐ **SAVE MORE!** Three for just **\$27.95**

plus \$6 P&H.

— Qty. **Extra length 6 foot connection cable** just \$2 ea. (a \$5.00 value).

Enclosed \$_____. VA res. add sales tax.

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☐ Amex ☐ Diners ☐ Discover

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U.S. Buyers Network, Dept. AT5235

One American Way, Roanoke, VA 24016

LEGION OPPOSES IMF LOANS TO VIETNAM

DESPITE strong opposition from The American Legion, the Clinton administration will allow money from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to flow into Vietnam.

The IMF is an international money-lending institution with 151 member nations, but the United States has enough political clout to

short-circuit loans to most countries if it chooses to.

Clinton's decision is a turning point because for 29 years, the United States has consistently blocked IMF loans to Hanoi due to the communist country's handling of the POW/MIA issue. Even today — some 20 years after the Vietnam War — more than 2,000 U.S. troops are unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, and evidence suggests the Vietnamese are withholding information.

"Both the President and The American Legion share the same goal: the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs," said National Commander Roger A. Munson. "But we disagree on how to accomplish this."

Clinton is hoping that rebuilding Vietnam with IMF money will encourage Hanoi to be more forthcoming about U.S. POW/MIAs.

"With all due respect, the Legion cannot endorse this policy," said Munson. "Only by maintaining the economic embargo and blocking IMF loans to Vietnam can we assure the fullest possible accounting. Money is our leverage, and we just gave away some very important bargaining power."

Following his IMF loan announcement, Clinton sent a task force to Vietnam to assess POW/MIA progress. Legion representatives were part of the team, which at press time had not returned from its mission.

"We don't agree with President Clinton's decision to ease the economic pressure on Vietnam, but we are willing to help get the truth any

way we can," Munson said.

This month, discussions about lifting the economic embargo on Vietnam are scheduled to take place.

"Allowing IMF money to rebuild Vietnam without a full accounting was unfortunate, but to lift the embar-

go under these circumstances would be disastrous," Munson said. "If we lift the embargo when it comes up for review this month, we will have abandoned our missing and shamed ourselves in the eyes of their families." □

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM IN DANGER

THE LEGION'S fight to maintain military registration for America's young men suffered a setback when the U.S. House narrowly voted down a measure to continue funding the Selective Service System.

Earlier in the year, the House Appropriations Committee cut \$24 million from the system's budget, leaving it with \$5 million. The system has enough money to maintain its current file system, but not enough to continue registering draft-age men.

In a 207-202 vote, the House rejected an amendment to cover the budget cuts in the Selective Service System.

The Legion has been a longtime supporter of the system. "The Selective Service is an important component of our defense," said National Commander Roger A. Munson. "It's an insurance policy." □

POST 239 DISCOVERED ON DISCOVERY

POST 239 of Worthington, Ohio, received national attention when the television series, *Walter Cronkite Reports*, aired the Post's Memorial Day parade on the Discovery channel. Footage of the 100-unit parade and its 10,000 spectators provided a patriotic backdrop for the segment's topic: U.S. foreign policy.

"The parade was big, loud and colorful — a real middle-American parade," said Suzanne Gottlieb, the show's associate producer. Department of Ohio Adjutant Stu Sears helped gain the July 29 national air time for the Post by submitting detailed itin-

eraries and historical information about the parade to the show's producers. The Legion's sponsorship of the parade goes back to 1920, according to Post 239 Second Vice Commander John Clifford.

The TV crew also interviewed veterans and other citizens for their opinions on current U.S. foreign policy and filmed memorial services at local cemeteries. The Post decorated the tombstones of veterans from the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm with some 1,500 poppies. "I'm very proud that a Post in my home state received this honor," says National Commander Roger A. Munson. □

TAPED—A Walter Cronkite Reports crew films Joe Hart, left, and Harry Zimmerman of Post 239, Worthington, Ohio, on Memorial Day.



MONSON HONORS WWII VETERANS DURING EUROPEAN TRIP



AT THE ARC—National Commander Roger A. Munson places a wreath at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris this past May.

MY TRIP to Europe was a sobering reminder of the awesome price many of my fellow WWII veterans paid to preserve freedom," National Commander Roger A. Munson said after visiting many historic European WWII sites.

During his 10-day European trip last spring, Munson participated in commemorative ceremonies at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and the Lorraine American Cemetery near

Avord, France. The cemetery is the largest American WWII cemetery in Europe.

Munson laid a wreath and rekindled the Arc de Triomphe's flame, which burns in memory of France's unknown soldier. During his visit, Munson also laid a wreath at New Neuilly Cemetery outside of Paris, with Legionnaires from Paris Post 1 in attendance.

Among the U.S. military leaders Munson met in Germany were Gen. Robert C. Oaks, commander of the

U.S. Air Force in Europe, and Maj. Gen. Craig Hagan, deputy commander of U.S. Army forces, Europe.

"After talking to the U.S. commanders in Europe, I believe that while the defense budgets are being trimmed, the Armed Forces are being asked to take on more tasks," Munson said. "Doing more with less is not a realistic approach."

Munson also took the opportunity to ask U.S. troops in Europe about homosexuals in the military. "They were against lifting the ban and said that allowing homosexuals to serve openly would threaten good order and discipline," he said.

Munson visited the U.S. Embassy in London and met with Vice Adm. Edward W. Clexton Jr., deputy commander-in-chief of the U.S. Navy in Europe, before returning home to Mentor, Ohio. □

PNC GETS KEY VA APPOINTMENT

THE White House has appointed Past National Commander Dale L. Renaud as VA's deputy assistant secretary for intergovernmental affairs. In his new job, Renaud, The American Legion National Commander in 1985-86, will promote veterans' programs created by the President and VA.

Before the July appointment, Renaud served as the director of the Iowa state veterans affairs office and was president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. A Korean War veteran, Renaud is a member of Post 396 of Bondurant, Iowa. He was Iowa commander in 1971. □



DALE L. RENAUD
Helping Veterans

BEDSIDE PHONES FOR VA HOSPITALS

"Veterans shouldn't be cut off from loved ones while criminals have phones in jail."

—John Natoli, Castle Point, N.Y., VA Medical Center

FOR SEVERAL months before Vietnam veteran George Palmer died in a VA hospital in Albany, N.Y., a coin phone was his only link with family and friends who were miles away. Palmer's death in 1986 spurred his friend, Vietnam veteran Frank X. Dosio of Post 1302, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., to establish a program making bedside telephones available for patients in VA hospitals.

The program is called PT Phone Home, a take-off from the movie, *E.T.*, with "PT" standing for patient.

"I've seen guys fighting over a pay phone who once fought for our country," says Vietnam veteran John Natoli, general engineering foreman at New York's Castle Point VA Medical Center. "Veterans shouldn't be cut off from loved ones while criminals have phones in jail."

The first system became operational in 1990 at Castle

Point, thanks to 5,000 hours of volunteer work. VA officials want Dosio to put PT Phone Home in every VA hospital. "They had a 19-year plan," Dosio says. "but with our help, it will take five."

Volunteers from telephone companies and electrical workers have installed phones in five VA hospitals so far. Their donated time and supplies would have cost between \$40 million and \$80 million, Dosio estimates. Dosio and Natoli are asking Congress to give VA \$12 million to help equip the remaining 166 VA hospitals, Natoli says.

In 1993, the program received the President's Volunteer Action Award from the Points of Light Foundation.

For more information write: PT Phone Home, P.O. Box 953, Castle Point, NY 12511. □

LEGION PRESSES FOR BETTER VA HEALTH CARE

LEGISLATION that would give more veterans access to VA medical care should be passed, Legion representatives have told Congress.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, the Legion supported the passage of S. 452, which would provide mobile clinics to give health care to veterans who live more than 100 miles from VA medical centers. The Legion also pressed the Senate to pass S. 852, which would pay the per diem of veterans who receive adult day health care through VA homes. During the same testimony,

the Legion urged the Senate to improve VA sexual trauma counseling by passing S. 1030.

Other measures the Legion asked the Senate committee to pass included creating a VA hospice care pilot program, and providing special care for veterans exposed to Agent Orange and ionizing radiation.

Early this summer, the Legion also testified on: **Women veterans' health care.** Urged improvement of VA's delivery of health care to women veterans. (House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations).

FY 1994 defense appro-

priations. Asked Congress to proceed slowly and exercise caution in downsizing the Armed Forces. (Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense).

Desert Storm veterans' health care. Recommended that a large-scale epidemiological study of Desert Storm veterans be conducted by a non-governmental agency, and urged the government to

THE LEGION IN CONGRESS

take a more active role in treating these veterans' ailments. (House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations).

Desert Storm veterans' VA claims processing. Urged better coordination of VA and DoD research and treatment programs for Desert Storm veterans. (House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance).

LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

Post 88 of Indianapolis teamed up with local sporting goods stores to purchase \$1,000 worth of fishing and camping equipment for children at the Damar Home for Abused Boys and Girls.

Legionnaires from **Post 314 of Hawthorne, Calif.**, helped create the Veterans Memorial at the Hawthorne Memorial Center. The memorial is dedicated to all men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Post 42 of Glenville, W.Va., established a scholarship fund at Glenville State College. Scholarships from the fund will be awarded to descendants of honorably discharged veterans.

To foster friendship with our northern neighbors and to remember our POW/MIAs, **Post 47 of Houlton, Maine**, has presented more than a dozen POW/MIA flags to branches of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Post 148 of Fort Howard, Md., presented a donation of \$3,305 to the Fort Howard VA Medical Center.

Legionnaires from **Post 849 of Johnstown, Pa.**, distributed U.S. Flags and participated in the Veterans Day program conducted by the children of University Park and Rachael Hill schools.

Post 150 of Frankenthum, Mich., donated \$1,200 to the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw, Mich., to buy medical equipment.

Post 275 of Forestville, Md., inducted 130 new members in a single ceremony.

Shooting Champions Aim For Olympics

SEVENTEEN-year-olds Randall Owle of Cherokee, N.C., and Michael Douglass of Beach Park, Ill., are one step closer to their Olympic dreams, thanks to The American Legion. Both won their divisions of the 1993 American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Tournament at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Only 23 of more than 630 entrants nationwide were chosen to compete in Colorado in the Precision and Sporter categories. The Legion Shooting Sports Program, which uses

pellet rifles, teaches gun safety and marksmanship to young men and women ages 14-20.

Douglass, sponsored by Post 281, Waukegan, Ill., earned top honors for his perfect score of 400 points in the prone position in the Precision category, breaking the national record of 397. Owle, sponsored by Post

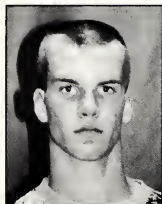
143, Cherokee, N.C., led every round and won the Sporter category with 2,189 points, 14 points ahead of his nearest rival.

Both champions received a \$500 scholarship from the Sons of The American Legion and plan to try out for the Olympics.

"I'm hoping to make the Olympic team, maybe not in 1996 in Atlanta, but maybe for 2000," said Douglass. "I think that's a more realistic goal." As the Precision champion, Douglass will be honored this month with other Youth Champions at the Legion's National Convention in Pittsburgh.



RANDALL OWLE
Sporter Champion



MICHAEL DOUGLASS
Precision Champion

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VETS Offers Finders/Seekers To Help Locate Old Buddies

LOOKING for an old buddy or a long lost relative? Finders/Seekers may now be able to help you. Finders/Seekers is a new locator service offered by VETS, the electronic system that provides THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine with a monthly list of military reunions.

Just send the person's name, former military unit or any other information you have along with a \$5.95 check or money order to:

**Finders/Seekers
VETS Operating Center
1809 Vandiver Dr.
Columbia, MO 65202-1916**

Here's what you will get for your money:

- A computer search to match the person you're seeking with more than 110 million names from VETS records, and various public

and private registries.

- Based on that one-time search, you will receive a computer listing of the names, addresses and phone numbers of people in the United States who have the same name as the person you're seeking.

- Finders/Seekers guarantees that you will get at least one name that matches, or your money will be fully refunded.

Finders/Seekers, however, cannot guarantee that the person you are seeking is on the list.

For common names such as John Jones or Bill Brown, the home state or other more specific information is required. There are so many Jones and Browns nationwide that the list would be just too long to be useful.

No requests by phone, please. Allow up to six weeks for a reply. □

HOW TO USE VETS

This month there are 947 military reunions listed on these pages. However, VETS has information on more than 10,000 other reunions. For information on reunions for any military unit or ship, call

**(900) 737-VETS
(900) 737-8387**

If you know the VETS five-digit number assigned to the ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed immediately after the unit in the magazine. If you don't know the VETS number or haven't seen the ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS oper-

ators may still be able to provide you with information. Many units are enrolling daily in VETS. Operators are on call Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time; from noon to 8 p.m. Central Daylight Saving Time; from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mountain Daylight Saving Time; and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Daylight Saving Time. Phone calls cost \$1.95 per minute, and the average call takes two minutes or less. Proceeds help support various veterans' and children's programs and services sponsored by The American Legion. □

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS, P.O. Box 10088, Columbia, MO 65205-4000. Unit names may be published two times per year, upon request.

Army

1st Convalescent Hospital #12869
1st Eng. Spec. Bde., Incl. 531st Shore Rgt. & Spt. Units #14560
1st Ord. Maint. Co. (1949-1952) #12361
2nd Combat Camera Unit #12857
2nd Inf. Div., 23rd Rgt., F Co. (WWII) #15459
2nd Inf. Div.: 82nd AAA Avn Bn. (SP) (Korea 1950/53) #12149
3rd & 4th Def. Bns. (Midway/Pearl Harbor) #16470
3rd Army & 6th Army, HQ & HQ Co. #10976
3rd Chemical Mtr. Bn. #15582
4th Inf. Div., 20th FA Bn. "Ivy Div." #20069
4th Port HQ & HQ Co. (TC) #14488
4th Port of Embarkation #18477
4th TC Assn. TMLC, C: 125th Trans. Cmd., 48th Trans. Gp. #22052
5th Arm'd Div. (West Coast Chapter) #12398
5th Arm'd Div. Assn. #15428
5th Inf. Div., 11th Rgt., G Co. (WWII) #10954
5th Inf. Div., 2nd Rgt., Anti-Tank Co. #15451
6th Inf. Div., 20th Rgt., Co. C #23127
8th Inf. Div., 13th Rgt., Cannon Co. (WWII) #13031
8th Inf. Div.: 12th Engr. Co. Bn. (WWII) #12195
8th Inf. Div.: 28th FA Bn. (WWII) #12192
8th Inf. Div.: 43rd FA Bn. (WWII) #12190
8th Inf. Div.: 8th Cav. Recon. Trp. (WWII) #20597
8th Inf. Div.: 8th Med. Bn. (WWII) #12189
8th Inf. Div.: 8th MP Bn. (WWII) #12194
8th Inf. Div.: 8th Sig. Co. (WWII) #12191
8th Inf. Div.: HQ & HQ Btry. (WWII) #12193
8th Inf. Div.: HQ Co. (WWII) #12195
9th Arm'd Div., 27th Arm'd Inf. Bn. Assn. (Remagun WWII) #15325
9th Arm'd Div., 27th Arm'd Inf. Bn., A Co. (WWII) #20590
9th Inf. Div. (WWII/TX SW Chapter) #16291
9th Inf. Div. Assn. (WWII) #11124
10th Arm'd Div. Veterans Assn. #15959
10th Combat Camera Unit (India) WWII #12856
10th Inf. Div., 40th FA Bn. #16176
10th Mtn. Div. Assn. Inc. "Ski Troops of WWII" #11179
13th Arm'd Div., 93rd Cav. Recon Sq. #12880
13th FA Bn. #20807
14th Cav. Gp. (WWII) #12541
15th Evac. Hospital - (WWII) #16447
17th FA Bn. Assn. #16619
17th FA Bn. "Persuaders" (Vietnam) #12880
17th Rgt. Reunion Assn. #21770
18th Cav. Recon. Sq. (WWII) #12487
18th Engr. Co. Rgt. 177th Const. Bn., B Co. & Atchd. Units (Aleutians) #11843
19th Co. Engr. Bn. Assn., 18th Engr. Bde. (Vietnam) #20143
19th Engr. Co. Rgt. (WWII) #20558
19th Medical General Lab #10074
20th Arm'd Div., Trains #12696
20th CA (HD) Fort Crockett, TX #16155
21st Ord. MM Co. #2257
23rd Spec. Trps. Bn., Heater Co. (ETO, WWII) #12868
24th Inf. Div., 19th Rgt. Assn. #21071
24th Sig Serv Bn. (Pt Devens, MA) #12885
25th FA Bn. #12178

25th Inf. Div. Assn. (Korean Veterans) #15338
27th Engr. Co. Bn. (WWII) #10006
28th General Hospital Assn. (1951/53) #16655
28th Inf. Div., 109th Rgt. #10455
28th Inf. Div., 109th Rgt., K Co. #12547
32nd Inf. Div., 32nd MP Pl. (S Pacific) #16026
32nd Sig. Const. Bn. (WWII) #16660
35th Inf. Div., Sig. Co. (WWII) #12691
36th Cav Recon Sq WWII #10126
36th Cav Recon. Sq. Trp. C #16552
36th Signal Hospital (Eng. WWII) #20567
37th Hospital Train (WWII) #13012
37th Inf. Div., 148th Rgt., D Co. #20743
37th Inf. Div., 148th Rgt., HQ & K Cos. (WWII & Korea) #10448
37th Ord. Co. Assn. (WWII) #10029
38th Signal Const. Bn. WWII & 1986/91 #10198
40th Inf. Div., 108th Rgt., K Co. (WWII) #15356
41st Arm'd Inf Bn. (Officer/Warrant Officers 1950/54) #12882
44th Inf. Div., 71st Rgt., I Co. (WWII) #10640
45th Cav. Recon. Trp. (WWII) #15491
48th CM Gp. #12849
49th CM Gp. Recon. Trp. #12847
52nd Co. Avn. Bn., Security Det. (Camp Holloway, Pleiku, Vietnam) #11292
52nd Med. Bn. (WWII) #15583
53rd CA, D Btry. (Fl. Lauderdale Fl 1942/44) #12593
58th Engr. Co. Assn. (1951/53) #22902
62nd AA, C Btry. (WWII) #10590
62nd Sig. Bn., B Assn. #22198
63rd Inf. Div., 253rd Rgt., F Co. (WWII) #14111
67th AAA Gun Bn., C Btry. (WWII) #14147
69th Signal Bn. (WWII) #16674
71st Cml. Mort. Bn./479th AAA Avn Bn. #15375
71st Evac. Hospital (Vietnam-Vietnam) #158th RCT (WWII) #13036
71st QM Bn. Mobile #12848
71st Sig. Serv. Bn., D Co. (1945/46) #12850
71st Trans. Bn. (Helicopter, Korea) #12851
71st Trans. Corps, Truck Bn. #12851
76th Engr. Cons. Bn. (1950/53) #23016
76th Inf. Div., 304th Rgt. Assn. #15269
77th Artillery Assn. #13036
77th Artillery Assn. "En Garde Rgt." #13035
78th AAA Gun Bn. #20118
78th Inf. Div., 310th Rgt., B Co. #15466
79th Inf. Div., 313th Rgt. "Cross of Lorraine Assn" WWII #15637
81st Inf. Div. Assn. "WLDCASTs" (Western Chptr. WWII-WWII) #20950
81st QM Co. #13025
83rd Inf. Div., 329th Rgt., F Co. #30041
85th Inf. Div., 310th Medical Bn., B Co. #21660
86th Inf. Div., 343rd Rgt., A Co. "Blackhawk Assn" #20169
87 Inf. Div., 602nd Trk Bn. #15681
87th Inf. Div. Assn. "Golden Acres" #15487
87th Inf. Div., 549th AAA Bn. #13009
87th Inf. Div., 607th Tank Bn. #15489
87th Inf. Div., 610th TD Bn. #15559
87th Inf. Div., 735th Tank Bn. #16468
90th Inf. Div., 344th FA Bn. (ETO WWII) #16887
91st Inf. Div., 347th FA Bn., C Btry. WWII #20173
92nd Inf Div Assn (WWII) #21284
92nd Ord. MM Co. #22610
94th MP Bn., K Co. (Kaiserslautern) #12884
96th Chem. Mtr. Bn. #15226
96th Inf. Div., 383rd Rgt., Cannon Co. (WWII) #14370
96th Inf. Div., 763rd Tank Bn. (WWII) #16366
97th Inf. Div., 303rd Rgt., 1st Bn., HQ Co. #10396
97th Inf. Div., 387th Rgt., D Co. (WWII) #16229
97th Inf. Div., 389th FA Bn., C Btry. #10719

97th Sig. Bn. Assn. #16205
 108th Inf. Div. 388th Rgt., F. Co. #15967
 100th Inf. Div., 397th Rgt., Co. A #12507
 101st Cav. Grp., 101st/116th Recon. Sq.
 (WWII) #15171
 103 Coscom, 56th MMC "All Years"
 #12871
 108th Evac. Hospital 50th Anniv #10766
 108th Rgt., Co. K (WWII) #12430
 110th Evac. Hosp. (WWII) #22514
 112th Cav. Rgt. Assn. (WWII) #15841
 121st AAA Gun Bn./121st Rocket FA Bn.
 NNGV #16543
 124th Cav. Rgt. Assn., of the 56th Cav.
 Bde. #15479
 126th Inf. Rgt. Assn. #16578
 135th AAA Gun Bn. #20630
 138th Engr. (C) Bn. #10347
 148th General Hospital (Hawaii/Saipan)
 #10079
 153rd Engr. Const. Bn. #15496
 166th AAA Gun Bn., C Btry. #10685
 179th FA Bn. Assn. #15964
 191st Chemical Depot Co. #13808
 198th Lt. Inf. Bde. Recon. Co. (1970/71)
 #20404
 204th FA Bn. "Li'l Joe" (WWII) #22783
 212TH Signal Dpt. #20188
 233rd Engr. (C) Bn. #15577
 237th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII) #15728
 243rd FA Bn. Assn. #16564
 243rd Port Co. #10580
 246th CA Assn. #10985
 247th Combat Engr. Bn. #10177
 248th Engr. Combat Bn. #16179
 258th FA Bn./991st FA Bn. #14290
 260th AA Arty. Assn. (DCNG) #10312
 266th FA Bn. (WWII) #22013
 273rd QM Bn. (3201-3202-3203-3204)
 #11804
 277th FA Bn. (All Btry's) #15552
 282nd FA Bn. #15256
 283rd FA Bn. (WWII) #15643
 284th Engr. (C) Bn. #10690

284th FA Bn. (WWII) #15526
 289th Engr. (C) Bn. #15261
 292nd JASCO (WWII) #20614
 294th Fwd. Obsv. Bn., Btry. B (WWII)
 #10158
 303rd Station Hospital #10941
 309th Ser. Grp., 2490th QM Truck Co.
 #12825
 312th Station Hosp. (NP) WWII #12826
 317th Barrage Balloon Bn. #12429
 329th Station Hospital (WWII) #22946
 351st Rgt. HQ & HQ Co. (Trest. 1950/54)
 #12549
 353rd Harbor Craft Co. (WWII) #20242
 368th Engr. Bn. #28365
 377th Harbor Craft Co. #10926

396th Port Bn. (TC) #15091
 396th QM Bn. Port #17625
 402nd QM Truck Co. #12846
 406th FA Grp., HQ Btry. (ETO Camp
 Maxy, WWII) #15773
 424th FA Bn. (Korea) #15619
 440th 465th & 472nd Signal Heavy Const.
 Bn.; (1942-Present) Inf AF #10154
 445th AAA AW Bn. Vets Assn. (WWII)
 #15279
 446th Engr. Base Depot Co. #30042
 449th AAA AW Bn., B Btry. #10825
 449th AAA AW Bn. Bn., C Btry. #14067
 449th MP Co. #15554
 464th AAA AW Bn. #20812
 472nd AAA Bn. #11250
 473rd Inf. Rgt., K Co. (WWII) #16146
 474th Sig. Avn. Const. Co. (SCARWAF)
 #15876
 476th AAA AW Bn. (WWII) #15222
 476th Ord. Evac. Co. (WWII) #12854
 479th Motor Ambulance Co. (WWII)
 #11909
 482nd Med. Coll. Co. (Sep) #15211
 487th AAA Bn., B Btry. (WWII) #15973
 487th Engr. W.S. Bn., Co. A,B,C, HQ
 #22936
 489th Port Bn. (WWII) #10133
 492nd Port Bn., Co. S 230-233
 (Guadacanal, Cebu City, PI) #10313
 497th AAA Gun Bn. (WWII) #22781
 501st Parachute Bn. Assn. (Original)
 #16433
 504th AAA Gun Bn. (WWII) #10872
 513th AAA Bn. #15437
 516th Med Clearing Co. (WWII) #12835
 519th Mi Bn. Assn. (Vietnam) #14236
 543rd Engr. Boat & Shore Rgt., Co. B - (All
 amphib) #15435
 551st AAA Bn. (WWII) 50th Anniv #16307
 575th AAA AW Bn. (SP) #10014
 577th Engr. Bn., Co. A #13042
 579th AAA AW Bn., B Btry. (WWII) #14342
 594th EB & S Bn., HQ Co. #20711

611th OBAM Bn. #21067
 619th Engr. #13045
 626TH Med Clearing Co. (WWII) #12836
 628th TD Bn (ETO WWII) #12867
 630TH Tank Destroyer Bn. #20751
 643RD TD Bn. #15620
 644th Tank Destroyer Bn. #16698
 650th Engr. Topo. Bn. (1942-92) #22266
 672nd Amphib Trac Bn. #13866
 691st TD Bn. #16234
 692nd Port Bn., Co. A,B,C,D #12843
 693rd Port Bn., Co. A,B,C,D #12844
 694th Port Bn., Co. A,B,C,D #12842
 695th Port Bn., Co. A,B,C,D #12845
 701st MP Bn. #10802
 729th CA Rgt., 122nd AA Bn.
 (Shemya, Aleutian Is. 1943/46) #11946
 729th CA Rgt., 61st AA Bn.
 (Shemya, Aleutian Is. 1943/46) #11947
 729th CA Rgt., 65th AA Bn.
 (Shemya, Aleutian Is. 1943/46) #17278
 735th Military Police Bn. Assn. #16676
 735th Railway Oper. Bn., Co. C #15649
 738th (M) Tank Bn. (Spd) #15240
 750th Tank Bn., D Co. #16049
 751st Engr. Parts Supply Co. #15460
 759th MP Bn., A,B,C,D & HQ Co's (WWII
 to Present) #10728
 760th Tank Bn. (WWII) #16550
 778th AAA AW Bn. (SP) 50th Anniv.
 #16439
 781st Tank Battalion Assn. #22798
 788th AAA AW Bn. (WWII) #22121
 788th MP Bn., D Co. WWII #11068
 789th EPD Co. (CBI 1944/45) #15816
 790th FA Bn. #10865
 790th QM Reclamation & Maint. (Korea
 1952) #20651
 791st AAA AW Bn. #15225
 792nd AAA AW Bn. (WWII) #16103
 793rd AAA AW Bn. #15998
 814th Ord. Base Dpt. Co. (WWII) #20948
 820th AVN Engr. Bn. #15131

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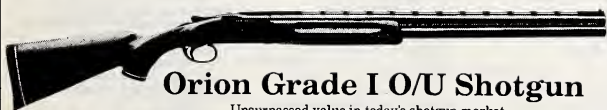
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3094th QM Refrig. Co. (Fixed) - (WWII) #16169
3168th Sig. Ser. Bn. DS Seaborne Comm Det. Weerona #12543
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4025th Sig. Ser. Bn. (WWII) #12415
6834th/2674th Re-Armament Rgt. #12426
Army Ranger Assn. #28405
ASA: 60th Sig. Radio Intl. Co. (1943/51) #10452
ASA: 8608th Fld. Sta. AAU, 116th Signal (Scheyern, Germany) #15272
ASA: HQ, ASAPAC (1946/52) #12046
Camp Atlanta (NE WWII) #12650
Combat Infantrymen's Assn. (All C.I.B. holders) #11507
Counter Intelligence Corps Assn. (NICCA) #10935
HHC 4th Trans. Terminal Cmd. #20554
Los Angeles MP Organization #16434
Nachtollenbach QM Depot - (1951-56) #15893
OCS Class 302 (Port Benning GA 1943) #12339
P.C. & R. All Grps. (WWII) #12827
Retired Army Nurse Corps Assn. #16624
SHAEEF, HC & HQ, ETO, USA Assn. #20450
VII Corp, Hq & Hq Co. (WWII) #12550
XIII Corps Assn. (WWII) #15530

Navy

1st NBC SpG. (WWII) #22524
4th NBC #12824
4th NBC SpG. 50th Anniv #22903
17th NBC (WWII) #18181
23rd NBC (WWII) #18345
28th NBC SpG. (WWII) #18212
3rd NBC PTO (WWII) #10034
43rd NBC #14339
23rd NBC #14487
67th NBC (WWII) #18512
68th NBC #14843
69th NBC #17557
78th NBC Assn. (WWII) #18083
95th NBC #10773
114th NBC/627th/628th/629th CBMUS #17323
17th NBC #12654
120th NBC (WWII) #12829
138th NBC, CB-1018 Det. (ATTU WWII) #23056
144th NBC #12823
ACORN-28 #21654
ACORN-45 (Sangley Point NAB) #14382
ACORN-7 #21082
Amphib Base Asst. Boats (Small) (Pt. Pierce Fl.) #21897
Amphib. Attache Boat Flotillas (WWII) #11329
ASA: Det. V. Unit 10 #12653
CAG-153-15 (1945/49) #18636
CASU-44 (Tianin Islands, 1943/45) #11767
CBMU-506 #11302
CBMU-552 & 553 #17762
CBMU-594 #17430
CBMU-595 #12822
China Area Sailors #20701
Carpman Sailor (WWII & Korea) #11257
Cruiser Sailors Assn. (All Ships Corps) #11576

Cryptologic Vets Assn. #21099
DESRON-52/Miller/Owen/Sullivan/Potter/Tingey/Hickox/Hunt/Hancock/Mans #22620
Ehrye Island, Kwajalein Atoll #12087
FASRON-118 #10861
Gene Tunney Physical Fitness Program, Squads IV/V/VI (MI Rating) #14399
Harbor Clearance Unit 1 (Vietnam) #14606
JAX-NAV-AIR VN-11/12/13/14/15-16 (1940-45) #10295
Landing Craft School Pacific (NAB Coronado CA, 1944) #20607
LC (FF)-766 #30067
LCI (C) 1056 #17969
LCI (C) 450 #16772
LCI National Assn. (#1 thru #1098) #21615
LCS (L) (G) 71 #14494
LCF Flotilla 12 (Normandy Invasion) #20406
LSM (R) 402 #12861
LSM-221 (Amphib.) #28318
LST-1018 #21601
LST-1027 & 569 #21312
LST-1097 Assn. (WWII) #14458
LST-138 #10087
LST-1223 #10778
LST-270 (WWII) #22698
LST-277 (WWII) #10466
LST-312 #10057
LST-335 #18429
LST-467 #17731
LST-5 #11157
LST-584 Assn. #18504
LST-580 #11535
LST-603 #18088
LST-667 #18020
LST-681 #10887
LST-695 Survivors #22961
LST-70 (1945-46, also CG) #11371
LST-700 #20680
LST-743 #11145
LST-757 #17602
LST-840 #10723
LST-845 #18293
LST-907 #17876
LST-938 #12651
LST-968 #10826
Manicani Island SRB: Philips (Incl. 91/96th NBCs & 478th AAA-1945/46) #21803
MCB-10 #12811
MCB-12 1968-69 25th Reunion #13863
MCB-12 Seabees Assn. Inc. #10742
MCB-133 (Vietnam 1968/69) #12159
MCB-3 MAM Deployment (1968/69) #12159
MCB-62 (1965/67) #14064
MILPHAP (N-7) (Vietnam 1967-68) #21268
NAMRU-2 (WWII) #10338
NAS Kaneohe Bay, "Kaneohe Klippers" (All Personnel, Oahu 1939/50) #18593
Natl. CPO Assn. (Navy/CG) #14476
NCB-Bobcat (Bora Bora Bobcat Bn.) #10220
NMCB-53 (Vietnam 1968-69) #22636
NTC San Diego: FT "A" School Staff #12641
Omaha Class Ships (CL) #16730
PATSU 1-11 #11475
PATSU 1-9 (May 1943-45) #14814
PC-1176 #14451
PC-558 #11781
PCEC-87 #10515
Radcliff Class, Sections 141-142 (Farragut Id, 1945) #12881
RTG Great Lakes: Camp Green Bay 27th Rgt. Co. 1408 (1944) #12011
RTG Great Lakes: Co. 44-523 (October 1944) #12698
SC-1042 (WWII) #16000
SC-751 #21073
Seabees: Naples, Italy (1951/56) #17485
Special Weapons Unit Assn. #12652
Tin Can Sailors (VA Chapt.) #10605
UDT-13 (WWII) #14573
UDT-22 "Frogmen" (Navy) #16891
USNAB Bremerhaven, Germany - (1951-54) #18671
USS Abner Read DD-526 Survivor Assn. #2132
USS ABSD-2 #10453
USS Acree DE-167 (50th Anniv.) #10239

USS Adair APA-91 (WWII) #11897
USS Albert T. Harris DE-447 #20995
USS Albert W. Grant DD-649 #17457
USS Albuquerque PF-7 #13038
USS Alcor AK-259 (Luka to Present) #12892
USS Alexander J. Luke DE-577 #18099
USS Altamaha CV-127 (WWII) #10818
USS Altamaha Creek Bn #10774
USS Alaska DE-72 #20933
USS American Legion APA-17 (WWII) #12891
USS Anthony DD-515 #21812
USS Aquarius AK-16 (Navy & CG) #23008
USS Arctic AF-7 #18221
USS Audick DD-569 #11243
USS Aventinus ARV-3 #17966
USS Baircock CVE-115 Assn #17366
USS Bang SS-385 #22805
USS Barney DD-149 #11026
USS Basilone DDE-824 #12895
USS Begor APD-27 #10048
USS Belgouise YN-1/AK-28 #10785
USS Bismarck Sea CVE-95 (Incl. VC-86 WWII) #17329
USS Borie DD-215 #12276
USS Braine DD-630 #17441
USS Bharears AR-12 (WWII & Korea) #17588
USS Burleigh APA-95 (WWII) #18508
USS Burlison APA-67 (1944/46) #11259
USS Buttermilk YN-4/AN-9 #17591
USS C. C. Cecil DMR-835 #13046
USS Cabot CVL-28 (Incl. Air Squadrons 1943/57) #11081
USS Caliente AO-93 #18485
USS Callaway APA-35 (CG Inc) #21813
USS Cambria APA-36 #13027
USS Canbera CA-70/CAG-2 (Inc Marine Det) #50th Anniv #10038
USS Canopus AS-9 #10038
USS Caperton DD-650 #10781
USS Carmitta IX-152 #20307
USS Carter Hall LSD-3 #21839
USS Castorock AVP-35 (WWII, 1944/46) #22120
USS Catalisil LSV-1 #18305
USS Chaffee DE-330 #17356
USS Charles Lawrence DE-53/APD-37 #10408
USS Chehalis AOG-48 #18354
USS Chickasaw AT-83 #10324
USS Chilton APA-LP-38 (Inc Marines) 1942/72 #22840
USS Christopher DE-100 #14386
USS Cimarron AD-22 (1939/69) #18650
USS Cincinnati CL-6 #17887
USS Clarian AK-172 #22991
USS Cleveland CL-55 (Incl. Marines) #10450
USS Cobbler #13033
USS Cochino #13032
USS Colonial LSD-18 #14615
USS Concord CL-10 #17515
USS Constant MC-67 WESTPAC (S. Vietnam 1964/65) #28319
USS Converse DD-509 #17900
USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assn. #17967
USS Corry DD-463 #21157
USS Crater AR-16 (WWII) #17313
USS Crescent City APA-97 #18491
USS Cruiser DE-161 (WWII) #18403
USS Dace SS-247 #12298
USS Dale DD-519 #17829
USS Darter SS-227 #12297
USS DeGrasse AP-164/AK-223 #17550
USS DeHaven DD-697/77 #16597
USS DeLong DE-684 #17730
USS Dickens APA-161 (WWII) #11215
USS Dixie AD-14: Supply Department (1959-62) #11550
USS Dobbin AD-3 & Dds-Dewey, Hull, MacDonough, Phelps, Worden (12/07/4) #18054
USS Duffy (DE-27) 50th Anniv. #22901
USS Dutchess APA-96 #12121
USS Dutton AGS-8 #12296
USS Earl K. Olsen DE-765 #14184
USS Eastland APA-183 (WWII) #14882
USS Eberle DD-430 #11125

USS Edson DD-439 #10610
USS Ericsson DD-440 #10735
USS Euryale AS-22 #10642
USS Everett F. Larson DD/DDR-830 #10470
USS Fabius ARVA-5 #15416
USS Finback SS-230 #12865
USS Frank E. Evans DD-754 Assn #22287
USS Frank Knox DMR-742 (1944/70) #10066
USS Franklin CV-3 #17889
USS Fred T. Berry DD/DE-586 #10882
USS Frontier AD-25 (1946/47) #22274
USS Galveston CLG-3 #17451
USS Gannett DD-808 #16077
USS General S.D. Sturgis AP-137 (Marines Included) #17831
USS George E. Davis DE-357 #3106
USS Gillespie DD-609 (1942/45) #12852
USS Glacier AGS-4 (1945/67) #14868
USS Gladiator AM-319 (WWII/Korea) #21909
USS Gold Star AG-12 (Pre-WWII Guam Navy & Marines) #18532
USS Grayson DD-435 #10237
USS Gridley DD-380 #17734
USS Guestd DE-472 #18197
USS Haas DE-424 #11314
USS Hale DD-642 #21194
USS Halligan DD-584 #10734
USS Halsey Powell DD-686 #13029
USS Hamner DD-718 #23093
USS Hanford AD-20/AK-30 #18527
USS Hank DD-702 #18155
USS Hansford APA-106 Assn. #20390
USS Hanson DMR-832 #23630
USS Harold R. Ellison DD-864 #14656
USS Henley DD-391 #18209
USS Hermitage LSD-34 #21218
USS Horsey AP-148 #10162
USS Hickox DD-673 (DESRON-52) #12265
USS Highlands DD-119 #21951
USS Hobbs DD-610 (1942-45) #18535
USS Holder DD/DE/IR/DE-401 #10026
USS Holt DE-706 #10098
USS Hornet Club Assn. (CV-812/CVA-12/CVS-12) #17950
USS Hornet CV-8 #18376
USS Hovey DMS-11/DD-208 #12649
USS Howarth DD-592 Assn #18064
USS Hudson DD-10 #17525
USS Hugh L. Scott AP-43 (WWII) #22378
USS Hunt DD-674 (DESRON-52) #12472
USS Huse DE-145 Assn. #18453
USS Iccish SS-367 #20132
USS Indiana BB-58 Assn (Marines Included) #17525
USS J. W. Weeks DD-701 #21600
USS J. Richard Ward DE-243 #17589
USS Jaccard DE-355 #13865
USS Jaccard DE-355 #17882
USS John R. Pierce DD-753 (1944/73) #18033
USS Kadashan Bay CVE-76VC-20 Assn #18035
USS Kaskaskia AO-27 #18021
USS Kawishiwi AO-146 #18289
USS Key DE-348 #17650
USS Knapp DD-653 (Navy/Korea) #17823
USS Kretschmer DE-329/DR-329 #10403
USS Kwajalein CVE-98 (WWII) #17423
USS Lacerata ACA-29 #10397
USS Langford CVL-27 Assn #21195
USS LaPorte APA-151 (WWII) #10262
USS Lawrence C. Taylor DE-105 #21434
USS Leadstone APA-58 Assn #18353
USS Lenawee APA-195 (Korea 1950/55) #12149
USS Leutze DD-481 #21538
USS Lewis Hancock DD-675 (DESRON-52) #22286
USS Little APD-60 (All Eras) #12394
USS Lindsey DM-36 #21072
USS Major De-79 #10419
USS Marshall DD-678 (DESRON-52) #12287
USS Mataponi AO-41 #17962
USS Maurice J. Manuel DE-351 (WWII) #21820
USS Mayrant DD-402 #17662
USS McCowan DD-678 (1943/60) #17624
USS McDowell DD-678 (WWII) #17598
USS McGowan SS-480 (1959/60) #12359
USS Memhaden SS-377 #12299

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USS Monssen DD-798 (WWII & Korea)
#11419
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Chapter. #1832
USS Morris DD-417 #12285
USS Morris McKinley AGC-7 Assn.
(1944/70) #17977
USS Multahy DD-528 #14603
USS Murphy DD-603 #18499
USS Mustin DD-413 #17352
USS Naos AK-105 #12019
USS Nashville CL-43 #18264
USS Nassau CVE-16 #17379
USS Neches AO-5 (WWII) #21564
USS New DD/DE/DDR-818 #14425
USS Newman K. Perry DD-883 #14477
USS Nicholas DD/DE-449 #17466
USS North Carolina BB-55 Assn. #17623
USS O'Reilly DE-330 (WWII) #18063
USS Oconto APA-187 (Western) #13024
USS Oceans AF-26 #21821
USS Okaloosa APA-219 #10065
USS Owen DD-536 (DESRON-52) #12261
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USS Philippine Sea CV-47 Assn. & Mar.
Det. (Korea) #28301
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USS Rogers DD/DDR-876 #11213
USS Russell DD-414 #18573
USS Sabine AO-25 #17392
USS Sage AM-111 #17761
USS Salem CA-139 (Marines included)
#17373
USS Sampson DDG-10 #16279
USS Samuel S. Miles DE-183 #17961
USS Saranac AO-74 #17476
USS Saratoga CV-3/CV-60/CVA-60
#17906
USS Schmitt #18188
USS Schroeder DD-501 #10657
USS Sellstrom DE-255 #12883
USS Senate ARL-26 #10144
USS Sevier APA-233 #10782
USS Shamrock Bay CVE-84 (Incl. VC-
42/CV-94/VC-96 1941/46) #18063
USS Shinkoff ALP-52 #21915
USS Shenandoah AD-26 #20813
USS Shields DD-596 (Korean War)
#18069
USS Signal (1943/45) #13040
USS Sigourney DD-643 (WWII) #18309
USS Skate SS-305 WWI #12870
USS Spiegel Grove LSD-32 (1956/91)
#12026
USS St Croix APA-231 (1944/45) #14585
USS St. Lo CVE-63 & VC-65 #17315
USS Standard Arrow (1943/45) #13041
USS Sontor ARL-26 #13861
USS Stephen Potter DD-538 (DESRON-
52) #12693
USS Stevens DD-478 (WWII) #17912
USS Sicken DD/DDR-888 #17564

USS Stoddard DD-566 #18218
USS Straub DE-181 #18295
USS Sullivan DD-537 (DESRON-52)
#12262
USS Sumter APA-52 #11084
USS Superior AM-311 (WWII) #12819
USS Taconic AGC-17 #21278
USS Taluga AO-62 (WWII) #10967
USS Terrell County LST-157 #13028
USS Teton AGC-14 (Inc Mar & Army Det)
#15144
USS Thomas Jefferson APA-30 (1950/55)
#20548
USS Thorn DD-647 Assn. #21508
USS Tingey DD-539 (DESRON-52)
#12264
USS Tisdale DE-33 #18051
USS Topeka CLG-8 #15798
USS Topeka CLG-8 1959/70 (Inc Mar)
#17482
USS Tuski #13034
USS Twigg DD-591 #12620
USS Valencia AKA-81 #11149
USS Vammen DE-644 Assn
(WWII, Korea, Vietnam) #10592
USS Wedleigh DD-689 (Plankowners,
WWII) #18265
USS Wadsworth DD-516 #18201
USS Waldron DD-699 #11119
USS Walter S. Brown DE-258 #14383
USS Wasp CV/CVA/CVS-18 (Marines & Air
Grps. Incl. 1933/72) #18682
USS Waikesha AKA-84 #18275
USS Wharton AP-7 #10928
USS Wilhoite DE-397 #21190
USS Wilkes Barre CL-103 #10540
USS William C. Lawe DD-763 #17799
USS William P. Biddle APA-8 (WWII)
#18097
USS Willis DE-395 #11066
USS Wisconsin BB-64 #18475
USS Woodford AKA-86 (WWII) #17691
USS Woodrow Wilson SSBN-624 #12243
USS Wrenshall AE-12 Assn.
(WWII/Korea/Vietnam) #21917
USS Yancey AKA-93 (1962/Present)

#12890
USS Yokes APD-69 #13010
V-12 Pgm. Natl. (USN/USMC WWII)
#28302
V-12 Pgm.: Univ. of Louisville (50th Anniv.)
#22994
VA-728VA-155 (Korea) #18460
VB-115 (S Pacific, 1943/44) #12862
VB-122 (ATTU, SHEMYA 1944/45) #12863
VB/VPB-106 (WWII-50th Anniv.) #17759
VB/VPB-144 (WWII) #22742
VJ-1 #21633
VP-22 (WWII) #14967
VP-8VPMIL-8VP-201 "Patrol Sq. 8 Alumni
Assn." #12648
VP/VPB-146 #17362
VP/VPB-18 #17874
VPB-118 (WWII) #21303
VO-1/2/5/6 #20396
YMS-299 #20446
YMS-369 1943/47 #10555
YP-619 WWII #12864

Air Force

5th Comm. Grp., 934th Sig. Bn. (All
Squads Korea) #15000
12th Tac+ Recon Sq. (1917-1992) #12840
38th Com. Sq. (France 1951/55) #12522
40th Bomb Wing #12209
81st Tac. Flt. Wing (Bentwaters England)
#12579
86th Flt Bomber Wing (Germany)
1947/Present #12858
90th Bomb Grp. (H) "Jolly Rogers"
#119462
96th Bomb Grp., 339th Sq., "Wildfire"
Bomber Crew (B-17) #15145
99th Bomb Grp. (H) #15147
102nd AC & W Sq. (1951-53) #15060
102nd Operational Squadron #22845
301st Air Serv. Grp., HQ & HQ Sq. #22236
307th Bomb Grp. (H) Assn.
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 314th TC Grp, 62 C.P. Sq. (Korea 1951/57)
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 316th TC Grp, 37th TC Sq. (Korea
 1951/57) #23072
 339th Flt. Sq. Japan (1947/58) #10707
 344th Bomb Grp. Assn. #15010
 380th Bomb Grp. #30054
 405th Fr. Bomber Grp.: TAC (Langley
 AFB 1952/58) #01551
 440th Fr. Inlt. Sq. #21997
 464th Bomb Grp. "Pathfinder" (49th Bomb
 Wing, 15th AF Torretta Italy) #10404
 547th Ammo Supply Sq. #18613
 623rd AC & W. Sq. Det. 1 (Okinawa-
 1953/54) #22331
 815th TC "Flying Ninjas" (C-119s
 Ashiya Japan, 1950's) #12893
 825th (C) Def. Sq., "Hard Chargers" Assn.
 (Little Rock AFB) #30052
 887th Tac. Msl. Sq., C Flt. (17th AF, 38th
 Tac. Msl. Wing, Grunstadt Ge. #11388
 2152nd Comm. Sq. #11807
 3520th Flying Training Wing (B-47, T-33)
 #15117
 7505th USAF Hospital #21612
 Air Force Postal & Courier Assn. (AFPCA)
 #10869
 Air Rescue Assn. (Including Army Air
 Force) #15115
 Air Weather Assn. #17266
 Avn. SB-C/D #23052
 Chambley AB, France (Including Army)
 #22713
 Ellington AFB Navigators & Observers
 Assn. #12577
 Miyako Jimba A. Sta. (1962/63) #11808
 Pilot Class 50-G #15104
 Pilot Trng. Class 58-B-C-D (1956/57)
 #23118
 Wheelus AB (Tripoli 1948/51) #10676

Army Air Force

1st SAD (Strat. Air Dpt., Honington
 AB Eng. WWII) #15640
 2nd Air Div, 382nd Bomb Grp. #14280
 2nd BAD Assn. #16987
 4th Tow Target Sq. (Liberty Fld., GA)
 #21885
 7th AF: 41st Bomb Grp., 48th Bomb Sq.
 (WWII) #12233
 7th AF: Finance Office (Hickam Field
 Hawaii, 1942/45) #12580
 7th Ferrying Grp. (WWII) #20397
 8th AF: Photo Sec. (NJ Civilian) #16834
 8th Photo Recon. Sq. (WWII) #10738
 8th Photo Tech. Sq. Det. A9 (Port Lyautey,
 French Morocco 1946 #11553)
 10th Air Dpt. Grp. #13043
 12th Bomb Grp., 434th Bomb Sq. #22750
 12th College Trng. Det. #23109
 12th Tac. Recon Sq. (1917-1992) #12839
 19th Bomb Grp., 38th Recon. Sq. (WWII)
 #21074
 19th TC Sq. Southern Cross Airways Assn.
 (WWII) #16852
 22nd Air Base Grp., 478th Serv. Sq., 30th
 Mat. Sq. (1942/45) #16998
 25th Bomb Grp., Rn. Sq. (Former 802nd
 Rn. Wtation, England 1944/45) #16974
 26th Bomb Grp. (Guam) #13859
 30th Bomb Grp. Assn. (WWII) #16829
 30th Bomb Sq., Radar Cntr. Meas. (B-17,
 B-24 8th AF England, 1944/45) #30061
 33rd Fighter Grp. (1939/47) #15125
 38th Air Depot Grp., Repair Sq. #21941
 40th Bomb Grp./28th Serv. Outfit (WWII)
 #11128
 42nd Bomb Grp., 390th Bomb Sq. (13th
 AF) #16851
 47th Fighter Sq. (WWII) #15566
 48th Fr. Grp., 43rd Fr. Sq. #20843
 49th Air Dpt. Grp. (WWII) #16944
 49th Prst. Fr. Grp. Inlt. Sq. #20226
 50th Air Serv. Grp. (WWII) #12646
 52nd Fr. Grp., 5th Fr. Sq. #20989
 75th Bomb Wing Assn. (WWII) #16757
 75th Fr. Grp. (WWII) #12659
 64th TC Grp. #10141
 69th Serv. Sq. #15054
 74th Serv. Grp., 447th HO & HO Sq., 2nd
 ADAA (9th AF Serv. Cmd. ETO WW
 #20243

75th Troop Carrier Sq. #11044
 84th Dpt. Rep. Sq. #13864
 85th Bomb Disposal Sq. (Germany 1946)
 #20586
 96th TCS/BSSTAS #12853
 97th Bomb. Grp. Assn. (8th AF England,
 15th AF Italy, 12th AF Africa 19 #10435
 100th Air Serv. Sq. Assn. (5th AF, WWII)
 #12896
 100th Bomb Grp. (WWII) #15029
 112th Liaison Sq. #12163
 301st Air Serv. Grp. (CB) #15079
 305th Airborne Sq. #16860
 307th Bomb Grp., 370th Bomb Sq.
 #13044
 313th TC Grp., 49th TC Sq. (9th AF WWII)
 #11196
 322nd TC Sq., 14th Trans. Sect. (1942/45)
 #16786
 323rd Bomb Grp., 456th Bomb Sq. (M)
 #10464
 336th Air Service Sq. #20278
 339th Fr. Grp. (8th AF, Sta. F378,
 Fowlness England, WWII) #21845
 339th Service Sq. #16291
 341st Bomb Grp. (M), 22nd Bomb Sq.
 (CB) (WWII) #16756
 342nd Air Ser Sq. #12411
 354th Fr. Grp. Assn. (353rd, 355th, &
 356th Sqds.) #15136
 356th Fr. Grp. Assn. (8th AF) #21629
 358th Fr. Grp. "ORANGETALS" (All
 Sq. & Spt. Units) #10635
 367th Fr. Grp. Assn., 392nd/393rd/394th
 Fr. Sqs. (ETO WWII) #16876
 368th Air Serv. Grp., 598th Eng. Sq.
 #12520
 387th Bomb Grp. (M), 559th Bomb Sq.
 (WWII) #16890
 390th Bomb Grp. (WWII) #10489
 437th Sig. Con. Bn. #15207
 446th Bomb Grp. Assn. (WWII) #16991
 454th Bomb Grp. (Italy WWII) #16889
 457th Bomb Grp. Assn. (WWII) #20024
 507th Air Materials Sq. #20489
 560th, 561st, 562nd SAW Bns (WWII)
 #16982
 563rd Air Strat. Air Wing Bn., Co. C (WWII,
 50th Army) #20192
 568th Bomb Sq. #16746
 593 SAW (9th AF ETO 1943/45) #21261
 595th SAW A. Co. A, 5th Platoon #12546
 803rd Bomb Sq. Radar Cntr. Meas. (B-17,
 B-24 8th AF England, 1944/45) #30062
 821st Eng. Avn. Bn. #12208
 896th Sig. Avn. Dpt. Co. (9th AF WWII)
 #10688
 1901st Eng. Avn. Bn. (Okinawa WWII)
 #11806
 202nd OM Truck Co. #10911
 4951st Spt. Sq. (1) (Eniwetok Atoll,
 1959/61) #12887
 AAF Cadets Training (Parks College
 St. Louis Univ. WWII) #12841
 Air Commandos, 2nd(CB)/3rd(SWPAC)
 St. Louis Univ. WWII) #12841
 ATC: North African Div 1943/46 #13862
 Crash Rescue Boat Assn., AAF & USAF
 #14647
 Hanger #1 (SAC, ATT 462 X's Lowry AFB)
 #20724
 Kingman Army Air Field (Kingman, AZ)
 #15339
 North African Div. ATC (1943/46) #22291
 Pilot Class 44-G (Marina, FL) #30021
 Pilot Class 44-G (Marla TX) #11513
 W & B Flying School (Chickasha OK,
 WWII) #22764

Marines

1st Mar. Div., 1st Amph. Tractor Bn. (WWII)
 #15339
 1st Mar. Div., 1st Rgt., 2nd Bn. "Devil
 Dogs" Assn. (Korea) #20324
 1st Mar. Div., 1st Scout/1st Recon Co.
 (WWII) #21893
 1st Mar. Div., 28th Rgt., 3rd Bn., Co. K
 (1969-70) #12838
 1st Mar. Div., 3rd Arm'd Amph/6th Amph
 Bn. (WWII) #17086
 1st Mar. Rgt., 3rd Bn. Assn. (1941/45)
 #30006

1st Separate Topo Srvy. Pltn. (1943/45)
 #30069
 3rd Amph. Trac. Bn. (WWII) #17083
 3rd Mar. Div. Assn. Return to Guam
 #17137
 3rd Mar. Div., 3rd JASCO #17144
 4th Mar. Div., 15th Defense Bn. #13037
 4th Mar. Div., 23rd Rgt., Rgt. Weapons Co.
 (WWII) #21068
 5th Rgt., 3rd Bn. (1960) #21618
 10th Defense (AA) Bn. (WWII) #17080
 11th Rgt., 2nd Bn., E. Co. (WWII) #21818
 12th Rgt., 3rd Bn. (Vietnam) #22113
 16th Defense Bn. 5inch Coastal Artillery
 (1942/45) #17195
 27th Rgt., 1st Bn., HO. Co. (WWII) #12860
 Avn. Supply Marines (East) #17100
 Avn. Supply Marines (West) #17127
 Banana Fleet Marines (1920/40) #17168
 HMM (HMT) 161 Assn. #10851
 MAG-25 (SCAR) (WWII) #21038
 Mar. Corps Air Trans. Assn. (All
 VMR/VMR Sq.) #17076
 Mar. Det.: USS Missouri BB-63 (1947/51)
 #10343
 Mar. Det.: USS Philippine Sea CV-47
 #17091
 Marine Support Bn., L. Co. #10560
 Marine/Navy Paratroopers (WWII) #17132
 Marine/USMC (Kume Shima) #17134
 NAS Bunker Hill (Mar. Det.) #12837
 RECON Co. s. Korea #12636
 Tankers Assn., (East Coast Chapter)
 #12821
 VMB-611 #17120
 VMF-115 Pilots & Crewmen #14732
 VMF-121 (WWII) #17102
 VMF/VMMA 311 #10088
 VMSB-133 (Incl. MAG-24 Units) #17113
 VMSB-241 (WWII) #17184
 VMSB-33 Mar. Support Grp., 44 & 23 MAG,
 3rd Mar. Airwing #22168
 VMTB-131 #21526
 Wake Island Avengers - (1941) #17263

Coast Guard

12 PBV-54 Catalinas, VP6 Greenland
 Patrol 1940/45 #12336
 CG Combat Vets Assn. #17019
 Greenland Patrol (WWII) All 45 Vessels &
 Shore Stations) #23112
 LST Assn. of the US (All Eras) #17108
 LST-26 #10143
 LST-70 (1945/46) #12668
 LST-763 #10838
 SC-527 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12330
 SC-568 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12331
 SC-688 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12332
 SC-689 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12333
 SC-704 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12335
 SC-705 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12335
 Unit 5 (St. Matthew Island 1943/45)
 #14224
 USCGC Mohawk WPG-78 - (GREENLAND
 PATROL 1940/45) #17051
 USCGC Northland WPG-49 (Greenland
 Patrol 1940/45) #21851
 USS Active WPG-125 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23128
 USS Auk WPG-164 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23129
 USS Akak WPG-166 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23130
 USS Albatross AM-71 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23132
 USS Algonquin WPG-75 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23133
 USS Anak WPG-166 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23134
 USS Aquarius AK-16 #17018
 USS Ark WPG-167 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23135
 USS Arthur Middleton AFA-25 #12665
 USS Asgard WYT-90 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23136
 USS Arvek WPG-165 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23137
 USS Atak WPG-163 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23138
 USS Bear AG-29 Greenland Patrol

1940/45 #23139
 USS Big Horn (AO) - Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12337
 USS Bluebird AM-72 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23140
 USS Bowdoin IX-50 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23141
 USS Cactus WAGL-270 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23142
 USS Callaway APA-35 (Nav. Inlt.) #17058
 USS Cayuga CG-54 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23143
 USS Centaur AKA-17 #11272
 USS Cepheus AK-18 Alumni (WWII)
 #17042
 USS Citrus WAGL-300 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23144
 USS Comanche WPG-76 Greenland
 Patrol 1940/45 #15162
 USS Eastwind WAG-279 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23145
 USS Escanaba WPG-77 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #23146
 USS Evergreen WAGL-295 Greenland
 Patrol 1940/45 #12309
 USS Faunce WSC-138 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12310
 USS Frederick Lee WSC-139 Greenland
 Patrol 1940/45 #12311
 USS Evergreen WSC-140 Greenland
 Patrol 1940/45 #12312
 USS General M. C. Meigs AP-116 #20797
 USS Joseph T. Dickman APA-13 #30000
 USS Laurel WAGL-291 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12313
 USS Manito WYT-60 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12314
 USS Modoc WPG-46 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12315
 USS Mohawk WPG-78 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12316
 USS Mojave WPG-47 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #10522
 USS Nanok WYP-169 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12318
 USS Natesk WYT-167 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12319
 USS Nogak WYP-171 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12320
 USS North Star WPG-59 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12322
 USS Rattan WYT-93 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12323
 USS Ritchey DE-385 (WWII) #10633
 USS Samuel P. Chase APA-26 (WWII)
 #10284
 USS Sorrel WAGL-296 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12324
 USS Southwind WAG-280 Greenland
 Patrol 1940/45 #12325
 USS Storrs WAGL-38 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12326
 USS Tahoma WPG-60 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12327
 USS Tanager WAG-48 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12328
 USS Travis WSC-153 Greenland Patrol
 1940/45 #12329

Miscellaneous

Beirut Veterans of America (ALL
 SERVICES) #11839
 Bunkerwood Assn. (All) #27134
 Confederate Air Force Airshow '93
 #12799
 Ex-POW's of Korea "Nam won Bunch"
 (1905) #20768
 Kaneohe Klippers, USN/USMC #20929
 Kona, Hawaii #20447
 Merchant Marines Veterans WWII (50th
 ANN) #12278
 Offlag 64 (Szubin, Poland) #12523
 Saigon Mission Assn. #12820
 Shemya Veterans Assn. (ALL BRANCHES)
 #12845
 The Rhodesian Vets. Assn. #13030
 US Merchant Marine Vets #20467
 Vietnam Veterans, Nebraska #10950
 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project
 (WVMP) All Personnel Mtl. &C. #12886
 Wichita Area Vietnam Vets #12570

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Your Will Is A Dead Giveaway

Canton, OH (Special) You can spend money for a Will only to have a substantial part of your assets needlessly taken by lawyers, courts and executors through the probate process.

Why should you avoid probate? Simple. It costs too much and takes too long. Probate also creates an "invasion of your family's financial privacy!"

Probate can slice up to 10% from an estate and take months or years for settlement.

In fact, the only thing worse than a Will for the average wage earner is the nightmare created by no Will at all. Because then the State decides who gets everything you own.

Now there's a far better way to protect your estate than having only a Will. A new study reveals that a living trust is a low-cost alternative to probating a Will, even for an average sized estate.

Today you can eliminate costly, time-consuming probate and legal fees by using a simple legal paper called a revocable living trust. It avoids probate attorney, managerial and court fees because there is no Will to probate. Your family suffers no expense or settlement delays. And since a living trust is revocable, you can change your mind at any time about trustees and who gets your assets. Unlike a Will the estate goes at once to whomever you name -- in complete secrecy.

The many advantages of a living trust for the average-sized estate has been praised by estate planners and reported in financial publications like *The Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, *Money*, to name a few. You simply transfer all your assets into a living trust and name yourself or anyone you want as trustees.

Lawyers can charge an average of \$60 for writing a Will -- and then can

get up to 10% for probate. It's smart to set up a living trust.

Working with a team of legal scholars, DSA Financial Publishing Corp. of Canton, Ohio has prepared a Living Trust Kit designed so you can easily set up your own living trust. You'll get complete instructions written in easy-to-understand language, plus illustrated step-by-step forms. You also get complete guidelines on how to custom tailor your personal living trust so that any special wishes you may have for your estate are carried out.

It's easy to get your Living Trust Kit. All you have to do is send a check or money order in the amount of \$9.95 plus \$2 postage and handling or charge to your VISA/Mastercard by including account number and expiration date to: DSA Financial Publishing Corp., 708 - 12th St. N.W., Dept. W5030, Canton, Ohio 44703. For even faster service, VISA/Mastercard or C.O.D., call toll free 1-800-321-0888, Ext. W5030.

Legal form books - even samples - have been challenged under an unusual Texas law. Therefore, DSA has prepared a special form free Trust Kit for Texas residents only. It's yours for \$7.95 plus \$2 handling.

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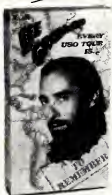
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GHOST PLANE

Continued from page 31

these early, bleak days of World War II. He hoped someone would provide information that would reveal the name of the phantom pilot. His biggest break came during a Bataan and Corregidor Defenders reunion, when a man stood up and called out:

"I helped build that airplane!"

The man was Milton McMullen, a former sergeant with the 701st Aviation Ordinance Sq. of the 19th Bomber Group. McMullen told about the squadron's last flying P-40. During a takeoff run, the left landing gear sheared off, but the pilot made an excellent landing. "After that, we felt she was good for one last flight," he said.

"The talk was of a flight to China, the nearest friendly point from where we were on Mindanao," he related. "We removed all the machine guns, stripped the armor plate, ammunition bins, and everything not essential to fly the P-40." An external gas tank was fastened to the bottom of the plane.

McMullen said the broken landing gear posed the greatest challenge. An attempt to fabricate a new wheel failed. Then someone hit upon the idea of using a bamboo skid with a metal frame. "We designed the skid so that it would fall off when the plane got airborne and the pilot could close the other wheel," he said.

Several designs were tried over the next few weeks. The final product was a metal frame fitted onto the axle spindle, and a large piece of bamboo formed as a skid.

"The P-40 lay well-hidden back in the jungle, with an open field in front

of it. No one could have found it there."

Normally, the Tomahawk has a cruise speed of 300 mph and a range of 500 to 700 miles. With additional fuel, and by throttling back to an airspeed of 180 mph, the men felt the P-40 would have an increased range of 1,200 to 1,300 miles.

On Sept. 2, 1942, hearing a familiar sound, McMullen looked out from his tent. The P-40 he had labored on was airborne and headed on a course for China. McMullen believes the American pilot who flew the P-40 had been hiding in the jungle, one of those who had refused to surrender. Captured shortly thereafter, McMullen never heard anything more about the P-40.

Norris has interviewed others involved with the flight either on Mindanao or in China several times. He learned that after the mystery P-40 crashed in China, a group of pilots from the 76th Fighter Sq. visited the crash site.

Among the group was Col. Robert Scott, a former Flying Tiger, and author of *God Is My Co-Pilot*. Guided by Chinese guerrillas, the group skirted enemy patrols to find the wrecked aircraft. Scott retrieved a partially burnt diary and several undamaged letters. But before the pilot could be exhumed, a Japanese patrol approached, forcing Scott and his party to slip away.

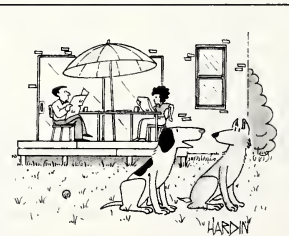
The letters were mailed, and Scott read part of the diary before turning it over to military intelligence. No one knows what happened to the diary after that point. Norris firmly believes that the name of the pilot is in the diary or among those letters.

But it is 50 years since that flight, and time has a habit of erasing valuable information. And the American pilots who flew alongside the ill-fated aircraft and witnessed the crash did not survive the war.

Who was this brave pilot who flew a pieced-together airplane over hundreds of miles of enemy territory?

Norris has gathered some information on the pilot, much of it from Milton McMullen. He was a volunteer pilot, probably from Massachusetts, with a broad Boston accent, and a Polish-American, about 5 feet, 10 inches tall, with black hair.

"I really believe I'm close to learning his name," Norris says. "I can feel it." The next phone call or letter may unlock the mystery of the name that has eluded him for so long. "Maybe even a reader of THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine has a clue to the pilot's name." ☐



"They feed me and they let me in and out, but those are the only tricks they know."

DO WE NEED A NATIONAL SALES TAX?

Continued from page 35

Continued from page 34

YES

important, American workers would get an instant pay raise because they could keep what

they earn.

For the first time since the income tax system began in 1913, Americans could then make sound financial decisions, not tax-motivated ones. Business owners could stop worrying about their taxes and instead devote their time and energy to creating jobs. Instead of having the lowest savings rate of any industrial nation, America would reverse its economic decline.

A national sales tax is easy to understand and comply with. The tax is paid at the time anyone makes a retail purchase. Economic studies show that a sales tax rate of 16 percent would generate the amount of revenue now coming from the present income tax. The amount of tax consumers would pay would be determined by the quantity of goods or services they purchase, not how hard or how much they worked.

Instead of escaping taxes, our foreign competitors would pay their fair share of U.S. taxes — which would put American manufacturers back on equal ground. American exports would soar and instantly boom our economy. The trade deficit would almost immediately vanish.

Rather than a bleak future, our children and grandchildren could look forward to the same kind of future we did — living in an America of opportunity. ☐

NO

permanent replacement for other taxes.

Contrary to the claims of advocates, all these consumption taxes in Europe do not help the savings rate. Ken Militzer, chief economist for AT&T, has found that "data for 23 OECD countries indicate that neither consumption taxes in general, nor a VAT or retail sales tax in particular, have any impact on savings."

Another tax is not what America needs.

Rather, we need lower taxes of all kinds, less money spent by Washington and more left in the pockets of American taxpayers. Arguing over what kinds of massive, intrusive, burdensome and expensive taxes the American people should have is much like the same question they ask inmates of Utah's Death Row: "Would you rather be shot or hanged?" ☐

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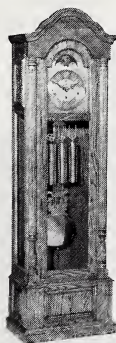
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M.C. "Mike" Gehr, LA Department Vice Commander (1954-55), Department Commander (1956-57), Alternate National Executive Committeeman (1963-65), National Executive Committeeman (1967-69).

Paul J. Layman, KY Department Historian (1991-1993).

Oscar Romero, Puerto Rico Department Vice Commander (1952-54, 1955-56), Department Commander (1957-59).

A.R. Tyner Jr., OK Department Adjutant (1955-70).
Gorge Ross Ward, Canada Department Commander (1974-75).

HOMOSEXUALS

Continued from page 41

lum. It was designed to teach tolerance and respect for a variety of cultures.

One spark of controversy was its optional reading list, suggesting books such as *Daddy's Roommate* and *Heather Has Two Mommies*, which portrayed gay and lesbian home life. Fernandez named the angry opposition from religious groups as a major factor in the New York Board of Education's decision not to renew his contract. Some critics pointed out that the books' producer, Alyson Publications of Boston, also sold a gay guide promoting adult-child sexual relations.

Publisher Sasha Alyson says his company markets the guide but does not publish it. However, he acknowledges, "We have published books that explore the issue, 'Are the age-of-consent laws something that should be changed?' I think it's legitimate to explore that," he says. "As for people molesting, abusing... children, I'm certainly not in favor of it."

But this drive to adopt gay curricu-

la disguises another agenda to encourage youngsters to adopt a "homosexual lifestyle," according to analyst Cliff Kincaid. "Homosexuals do not produce children, so the only way they can keep the movement going is to recruit kids," he says. "One way is through curricula. Another is to demand custody and adopt children." Gay-rights advocates deny any such intention.

Funding and programs to counter AIDS. Gays argue that there's not enough funding to combat the AIDS epidemic. Critics contend there's too much, compared with what we spend for the biggest health threats: cardiovascular disease and cancer.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the country's premier federal health research agency, expects to spend about \$2 billion in 1993 on cancer research and about half that on AIDS research. But there are far more cancer patients than those with AIDS. Federal figures provide the latest score:

- Cancer: 1,170,000 new cases estimated in 1993.
- AIDS: 71,196 new cases of AIDS from April 1992 to March 1993.

These numbers mean NIH spends

about \$1,700 per new cancer patient compared with \$15,000 for each new AIDS patient — more than eight times as much.

Yet gay activists point to other estimates from the Centers for Disease Control that suggest roughly a million Americans are infected with the virus causing AIDS — far greater than the number who have active symptoms.

Using that estimate, the AIDS-research cost drops to about \$1,000, about 40 percent less than what's spent per person with cancer.

All numbers seem to suggest, though, that research on cardiovascular problems is seriously shortchanged compared with both cancer and AIDS.

The total spent in 1992 for several research programs investigating how to stop heart attack, stroke and other circulatory killers comes to less than \$1 billion, a comparatively paltry sum considering that cardiovascular disease afflicts more than 70 million Americans and killed 930,000 in 1990 alone.

Obviously, both gays and heterosexuals concerned about health ought to be lobbying for more money to fight heart disease, which takes a huge toll of human life without regard to sexual orientation.

Opportunities in the military. Homosexual groups argue that the 50-year-old Department of Defense Directive banning gays from military service is unfair and costly. They say that the rationale for the anti-gay policy is similar to arguments used to restrict blacks from the military years ago.

The gay-rights group says that the cost of discharging 1,000 gay service members in 1990 alone, considering wasted training and retraining for replacements, came to \$27 million. That was one rationale for the pres-

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sure on President Clinton to seek an anti-gay directive.

Opponents of overturning the ban say the comparison with blacks is unfair because gays are asking for protection solely on the basis of their sexual behavior. Blacks can't change the color of their skin, say critics who support discrimination laws safeguarding ethnic minorities. But changing the directive to protect behavior opens more complex issues.

The "don't ask, don't tell" compromise discussed on Capitol Hill doesn't completely solve the issue for either side.

Under "don't ask, don't tell," gays could serve as long as they kept quiet about their sexuality. Clinton seemed to endorse the idea in May when he said in a television interview that most Americans favored letting gays serve if homosexual GIs kept their sexual life to themselves.

In a *Wall Street Journal* poll published this year, 47 percent of those canvassed said they opposed allowing openly gay men and lesbians to serve, while 43 percent favored admitting gays. But more than half of the opponents said they wouldn't dispute gay enlistments as long as the homosexuals didn't openly declare that they were gay, and observed the code of military conduct.

After some earlier waffling, the President appears to be sliding toward a position acceptable to most Americans.

But gays are objecting to one of the statements the President has made on the issue: "We are trying to work this out so that our country does not appear to be endorsing a gay lifestyle," he said.

Acceptance of gays as normal, healthy humans. Most homosexuals who speak to the press argue that the way they live is no different from the lifestyle on Main Street. "Yesterday I engaged in the gay lifestyle," says Miriam Ben-Shalom, a lesbian. "I went shopping and did laundry and cooked dinner. What is America so afraid of, anyway?"

Brendan Daly, press secretary to Massachusetts Rep. Gerry E. Studds, who is homosexual, says the vast majority of gay people are turned off by fringe elements in the gay-rights movement such as those who tout "man-boy love" or sex with animals.

"Those are perversions," says Daly, who says he himself is heterosexual. Where does he draw the line? "People are so afraid of homosexuality, or appalled by it, that they equate the

two," perversions and homosexuality, he says. "We obviously don't equate them. If you are homosexual, that's just the way you are. It's not a perversion. It's not a sickness."

LaBarbera counters that spokesmen for the gay movement may have learned how to manipulate the media recently, but the way gays live is still X-rated.

"When gays say, 'We don't do that,' I think that's disingenuous," he says. "When you read [gay] literature, you find a heavy emphasis on pornography. I just interviewed a guy who had between 300 and 400 sexual partners in the space of four years. The

more Americans know, the more they'll understand that this is no classic minority."

Amid such heated arguments, probably both sides would agree with Gary Bauer at the Family Research Council.

"There are deep divisions in American life, more so than at any time since the 1850s when the country was in turmoil over slavery," Bauer says. "I believe [the gay rights issue] is going to be a defining issue in the '90s and beyond, and that even though one can hope for moderation — and I do, on both sides — I think it's ultimately going to be hard to find common ground." □

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The Battle to Save VA Research

AT PRESS time, The American Legion was appealing to Congress to give more money to VA research and preserve the medical miracles it creates.

National Commander Roger A. Munson told a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees that VA medical and prosthetic research needed \$280 million for FY 1994. In addition, Legion spokesmen have repeated this recommendation during four congressional hearings this year.

President Clinton's budget proposal for FY 1994 provides only \$206 million for VA research; \$26 million less than the 1993 funding.

While developing the President's budget proposal, VA Secretary Jesse Brown was struggling with a logjam of thousands of veterans' claims at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). Brown recommended that the President shift \$26 million from the VA research budget to hire additional VBA employees.

That left the FY 1994 VA research budget at \$206 million, meaning only 1,400 of the 2,100 research projects currently underway would be funded. And one-third of all VA research projects up for review in 1994 would not be renewed, the second year in a row that no new research projects would be funded.

It also means money for new AIDS, cancer or Alzheimer's research, and money for new studies to improve care for aging veter-

ans would be at risk.

Fortunately, VA research has powerful allies, both inside and outside Congress.

Secretary Brown came under heavy fire in both House and Senate hearings for the \$26 million shortfall in the research budget. Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, urged Rep. Louis Stokes, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, to restore the \$26 million for research. Stokes transferred the money from VA health care and gave it to VA research.

After intense pressure from The American Legion, other veterans' organizations, medical colleges and physicians, the House added \$20 million more to VA research, bringing the total to \$252 million.

Meanwhile, on the Senate side, John D. "Jay" Rockefeller, Diane Feinstein and Patrick J. Leahy circulated a letter supporting the House's increased budget. At press time, 20 senators had signed the letter, and according to a Rockefeller staffer, at least 50 senators are expected to endorse it. Supporters hope the letter will persuade Sen. Barbara Mikulski, chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, to match the House-passed measure.

The Senate was expected to vote after the August recess. —K.S. □

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

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VA RESEARCH

Continued from page 24

quality of care VA provides to veterans would most certainly diminish if these gifted physicians cannot get the funds to carry out their research."

Currently, 139 of the 171 VA medical centers (VAMCs) are affiliated with 102 medical schools. The affiliation accounts for 30,000 medical residents and 22,000 medical students receiving at least a portion of their education at VA.

VA researchers and experts told THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine that this vital training program for America's future health providers may soon wither. Says Indianapolis researcher Clark, "I already know we have two, perhaps three of our top people that we are going to lose. Without the research, there is no reason for them to remain here."

It works. VA research has come a long way since it was created by Congress in 1947. In the early years, VA succeeded in improving prosthetics for GIs who had lost limbs through wartime injuries. Its mission has vastly expanded since then.

"VA medical research has achieved health-care improvements for disabled veterans while bringing scientific advances to the society at large," VA Secretary Jesse Brown told THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine.

Just in the last year, VA research discovered a genetic link showing that genes may make some people more prone to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; established that age and race play a part in the effectiveness of high blood pressure medications; and made major advances in the study and prevention of osteoporosis.

"In an era when health care dominates the news, it is unfathomable that our leaders think so little of VA's R&D accomplishments on behalf of veterans and the nation that they will allow it to waste away," Munson states firmly.

Perhaps Sen. Rockefeller sums it up best. "VA plays a leading role in identifying cost-effective ways to provide high quality care, something that will become increasingly critical as our nation goes forward with national health-care reform.

"We would be foolish to stifle VA's ability to carry out this enormously important work."

Planning For Retirement On Your Own

Continued from page 20
retirement are very slim."

When should you start retirement planning? "At least five years ahead of time," says Perkins. Take advantage of any preretirement help your employer offers. Employees are invited to Polaroid's retirement-planning seminars when

they reach 50.

Some people don't wait that long. Says Perkins, "It's more and more common for people to make inquiries in their 40s, to ask for a 'window-shopping session' in their early 50s, and to have four, six or eight hours of counseling in the last 12 to 18 months before retirement."—G.W. □

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ROUNDTABLE

Continued from page 38

plete their 526s [claims forms]. All of that is just adding to the backlog.

ROCKEFELLER: And to a small extent, so is the increase of PTSD and sexual harassment claims by women veterans. Women tend not to say anything while they are in the military because their bosses, or who they must report it to, are usually men.

But when they become veterans — maybe against their will — because of downsizing, they start opening up. And where do they open up? They open up to the VA system.

Q. So, just what is COVA doing to cause most of the backlog?

BROWN: I think even before you get to COVA, we have to look at what impact the Board of Veterans Appeals has on the process. They remand 50 percent of all of their cases. That means that those cases have to be worked over again.

Then you must factor in what happens whenever COVA makes a decision. That decision has to be equally applied to all cases across the country. It's not like it used to be. No decision was precedent-setting, generally. Now, each COVA decision decided by three or more COVA judges is precedent-setting and, therefore, VA must apply these decisions to all cases.

Q. What's the solution?

BROWN: We do not anticipate that we're going to ever be able to get the massive number of new people in the system to allow us to attack those cases, so we're going to have to be much more creative in how we approach the problem.

We're going to try to get some legislation introduced that will give us an additional 242 to 244 positions. We're also trying to change the law so we can eliminate the need to send out financial statements (IQ cards) to the 750,000 pensioners whose only other source of income is Social Security.

We have legislation allowing us to match IRS and Social Security computer tapes. We can run them against our own VA records and record the information automatically. We are trying to get this legislation extended.

This would free up some 240 positions which could help us reduce the backlog.

ROCKEFELLER: To me, this is a priority issue on which all three of us gentlemen are going to have to work together. I feel one of the most humiliating things that can happen is when it takes six and a half months for a service-connected disability claim to be acted upon.

Q. Another suggestion to help reduce the backlog is to cut BVA's three-member hearing board down to one board member. Do you favor that?

BROWN: Yes, I support the idea of one-person decision boards. That would allow the other two people to work on other cases and help clear some of the backlog. But I am also concerned that we establish safeguards to make sure people are not hurt because of one-person decisions. We have written draft legislation that would allow the Board of Veterans Appeals to go to a one-person hearing. The draft is currently under review.

Q. You have described a lot of possible changes in the VA system. Whatever happens, you gentlemen will undoubtedly play a significant role. Can you offer us any reassuring words?

MONTGOMERY: I think we can safely say we three are going to do all we can to protect the VA health-care system as we know it today. □

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a letter to let, including the CID number. Send the letters to CID, The American Legion Magazine, Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

Notices are published only at the requests of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Department Legion Service Offices.

5th Field Depot, FMF William Roger Runyan needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at the 5th Field Depot, Guam, December 1945 to September 1947, he suffered ear infection due to jungle fungus. Contact CID 1211.

AAF 16th Bomb Sq. (L), 27th Bombardment Grp. (L) Robert Neely Palmer needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Key Field, Meridian, Miss., in August, September or October 1942, his plane crashed and he injured his left leg. Contact CID 1210.

Cs. B. 79th Engr. Bn. James Floyd Gray needs witnesses to verify that while stationed on the Marshall Islands (Eniwetok) during the late '40s and early '50s, he was exposed to radiation. Contact CID 1208.

M Div., USS Bon Homme Richard (CV-31) Allen E. Greene needs witnesses to verify that in mid June 1952 he injured his right knee in the forward engine room. Contact CID 1209.

FAMILY TIES

Continued from page 33

met Georgia's foremost sculptor of monumental statues, Merab Merabishvili, and his father, Konstantine. The 87-year-old Konstantine had just moved back to live with his son. He waved his hand over the unfinished sculptures in the studio and explained, "My son *needs* me here." I realized then that the word "need" — the essential seed of longevity — was being repeated everywhere I went.

Take, for example, the manager of the Bakuriani ski resort, Otar Gotsiridze. Trailing him wherever he goes is his grandson, Sandro, 2, who came bounding out of the family's chalet, eyes wide. "Come on, Sandro," says Gotsiridze, hoisting the boy to his shoulders, "I *need* you to show our guests where we would stage the Winter Olympics."

Tbilisi native Olga Katz recalls the village she often visited as a child. "In Georgia, there is no such thing as a babysitter," she says. "And there are few, if any, old folks' homes. The grandparents take the children to school, and look after the household."

"When the parents must play the role of parents, the grandparents become the children's best friends. They pass along family folklore, the art of friendship and the secrets of influence and persuasion."

"Even in adulthood, grandchildren seek their grandparents' wisdom. It certainly makes the grandparents feel needed. But you see, the grandparents have created this need by making themselves important factors in their grandchildren's development. Children have enormous respect for their elders."

Storytelling "is the very soul of grandparenthood," says Katz. And for Georgian men, this ancient skill blooms into "an absolutely grand tradition" of the toastmaster at important and not-so-important events.

"There are different toasts for each occasion, whether it be a birthday, a funeral or just the Sunday dinner," Katz told me. "The bigger the event, the harder it is to be toastmaster. But the best can improvise poetry, glass in hand, to everyone's amazement."

"It is a great honor to be the top toastmaster. Everyone strives for it, and is measured by that standard. The children watch, learn and imitate."

They see the need for memory, poise and charm.

"And the singing! The children climb into their grandparents' laps to learn those special polyphonic songs. And maybe dancing afterward."

Katz, who now works in a Stanford University library, added wistfully, "If you grow up this way, it's hard to adjust to another environment."

I was also having problems in another environment. When it came time to leave Tbilisi, I couldn't find my stamped customs form at the air-

port, and agent wouldn't let me on the plane. As if sensing my need, my old travel companion, Zevza Gugunishvili, happened to be at the airport and came to my rescue. She leaned over the railing and applied some poetic persuasion to the officer, who shrugged.

"Go ahead, Rodney. It's OK," she said.

I couldn't help feel that with people like me in her life, her longevity would be assured.

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VETVOICE

Continued from page 6

can Legion must stand up for what is right.

Ronald G. Stinebiser
San Marcos, Calif.

The Army taught me that we were all "green." I owe my life to a fellow NCO who happened to be gay. If he hadn't been there, I wouldn't be writing now. To me, he's a hero.

Patrick von Wittman
Taunton, Mass.

Ray forgot to mention that of all sexual categories, lesbians have the lowest incidence of AIDS, so by his logic, they are the most desirable candidates for the military.

Tom Scott
San Francisco

Our biggest objection to allowing homosexuals in the military is that because they don't reproduce, they have to recruit young people to join

them. Young people joining the Armed Forces who have never been away from home and the influence of their families will become cherries ripe for picking by homosexual petty officers and sergeants.

Rolyn W. Olson
Mary L. Olson
Rock Island, Ill.

I appreciate the support the Legion has given to keeping the ban on homosexuals in the military. Again, thank you so much for taking a stand.

Daniel C. Roper
Houston

French Corrections

I want to point out an error in the article, "The Village That Remembers," by Dan Carlinsky (June). The 29th Division did not "breeze through Ste. Mère Eglise." It had to travel 18 miles. This division was one of the finest in the ETO and proved itself at Omaha Beach and later at St. Lo.

Glynn Welsh
Irvine, Ky.

John Steele's parachute did catch on the church steeple, but in contrast to the

movie, *The Longest Day*, he was cut down by German soldiers during the night and taken captive. After visiting St. Mère Eglise myself, I recommend that visitors find a spot outside the town to park, and walk to the village. It is a delightful way to see the area.

Daniel D. Holt
Director, Eisenhower Center
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library
Abilene, Kan.

Legion Health Plan

As a veteran who is grateful for past service of VA doctors, I support the Legion's health-care plan ("The Legion's Plan to Save Veterans' Health Care," June). And I hope to continue to use VA as much as I can afford.

Leo Rainville
Long Beach, Calif.

The problem with VA is not underfunding but the quality of services given to veterans. As a VA doctor, I am convinced that the greatest impediment to top quality VA health care is the lack of competition for the VA. VA has grown complacent because no matter how poorly it might serve its clientele, it need not worry about funding. The quickest and most reasonable method of bringing fiscal responsibility to VA is for it to be faced with competition.

Dr. Steven T. Charles
Torrance, Calif.

Space Race

While acknowledging the genius of artist Robert McCall ("Roaming The Galaxies With Artist Robert McCall" by Pat Murphy, June), let's give credit to the real pioneer. As Ray Bradbury eloquently says in the introduction of *The Art of Robert McCall*, "Before him was Chesley Bonestell, who inspired all other artists in the corridor to pull up their space socks and head for zero gravity."

Melvin H. Schuetz
Waco, Texas

Prostate Surgery

In Dr. John E. Wennberg's letter (Vetvoice, "Surgery vs. Drugs," June), he states, "As of March 1, 1993, we could find no articles in medical literature reporting on the results [of laser surgery of the prostate] in humans. Until adequate studies are done, judgment must be reserved."

I sent Dr. Wennberg a computer

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printout listing of several articles published in 1992 referring to laser surgery. I had a visual laser ablation prostate in January. From my experience, I would not hesitate to recommend it as a great improvement over the old method of transurethral resection or cutting out of tissue. It must, of course, be done by a competent, fully qualified surgeon trained in laser technology.

Clyde Sloan
Newport, Ore.

Postal Pouting

Each morning, all across America, hundreds of thousands of employed American Legion members, veterans and disabled veterans' wives are eager to work for the U.S. Post Office. Why don't all you cry baby editors shut your faces about false high postal rates and pay the true amount of postage necessary to support these carriers' wages? ("First Casualties of the Postal War," Your American Legion, May) Or would you rather see them unemployed, too?

Anton J. Novak
Deerbrook, Wis.

Restoring A Monument

What action was taken against the two teenagers who destroyed the Soldiers' Monument in Dayton National Cemetery ("The Final Salute: Where Heroes Rest" by Managing Editor Miles Epstein, May)?

Robert Neumeier
Ada, Ohio

Editor's note: The two teenagers who destroyed the Soldiers' Monument at Dayton National Cemetery caused \$492,000 in damage and were convicted in juvenile court for the crime. They were sentenced to pay restitution and have to date paid \$1,300 toward restoration of the memorial.

Honor Guards

Assistant Editor Ken Scharnberg's article, "The Changing Face of Honor Guards" (May) is disturbing. As a participant in our Post's honor guard, I know we are all getting old. And I often wonder if there will be anyone left to carry on the tradition when we are laid to rest?

Alvin D. Walker
Hoopstewtown, Ill.

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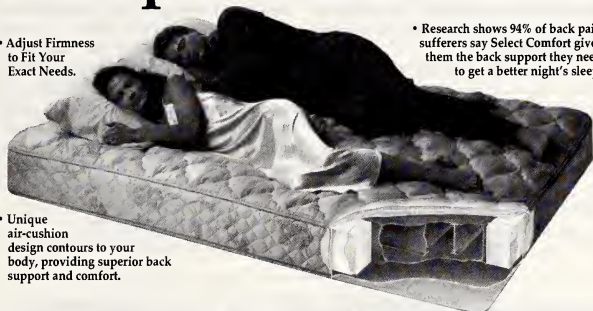
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HOME SCHOOLING

Continued from page 27

homeschool often use everyday life as a learning experience, combining household activities with textbook learning. As part of her math studies, Amy Danielson, a 9-year-old homeschooler from Portland, Ore., does the ordering for her family's natural foods co-op. She calls merchants and farmers, and adds up the bills.

"Sometimes people are wary of dealing with a little girl, but once I speak to them and explain that she's being homeschooled, they usually take the time to work with her," says her mother, Diane.

Homeschooled students also use local nature centers or museums to supplement their homeschooling.

Jeremy Nye, a 17 year-old from Vermont, who has been homeschooled all his life, is taking a course on building a solar car at his community's vocational center. In addition to working on automotive projects, Jeremy finds time to take piano lessons and

practice martial arts.

Some homeschoolers also add to their "book learning" by starting cottage industries. The book, *Earning Your Own Money*, published by Holt Associates, describes the money-making projects of several homeschoolers. One kid hauls scrap metal to the local salvage yard. Another baby-sits regularly. Two sisters breed hamsters and sell them.

"Homeschooled students have more time to focus their energy on what interests them, business related and otherwise," says Patrick Farena, president of Holt Associates.

Probably the most-publicized homeschooled graduate is Grant Colfax, son of Micki and David Colfax who wrote the widely acclaimed book, *Homeschooling for Excellence*.

When Grant was 15, the Colfaxes, of Bonville, Calif., encouraged him to pursue a topic in depth. He picked animal biology and raised award-winning goats that sold for more than \$1,200 each. He later went to Harvard on a full scholarship and received a Fulbright scholarship to graduate school.

THE RESULTS

Success stories like Grant's are

reinforced by standardized test scores of homeschools. Most studies show that students who are taught at home perform above the national average.

A recent study of homeschoolers in Alabama showed that their grammar school Stanford Achievement Test Scores to be equal to, or above, the test scores of students in conventional schools. Studies by both the Oregon Department of Education and the Tennessee Department of Education yielded similar results.

In Alaska, students who participate in a partially state-managed homeschooling program score significantly higher on the California Achievement Test in reading, math, language arts and science.

The Homeschool Legal Defense Association sponsored the largest nationwide study of home-educated students to date. Examining test data from 4,600 children whose families were members of their organization, the association found that the children averaged at, or above, the 80 percentile on standardized achievement tests in all areas.

Today, hundreds of top colleges including Boston University, Harvard University and the University of North Carolina regularly accept homeschooled students.

Nevertheless, critics sometimes say that when families homeschool, they jeopardize a child's socialization. But here again, numerous studies indicate that homeschooled students come out ahead.

When evaluating socialization levels, psychologists traditionally measure self-concept, or how students view themselves and others. In a study as a part of his doctoral thesis at Andrews University, Dr. Welsey Taylor examined 224 homeschooled students in grades 4 to 12. Taylor determined that the self-concept of homeschoolers was significantly higher than that of public school students in all six subscales of the Piers-Harris Children's Self Concept Scale — a test commonly recognized as a good indicator of socialization.

THE LEGAL ISSUES

Although the requirements differ from state to state, homeschooling is now legal in all 50 states. But, even with test results proving homeschooled students' academic competence, there's still some legal roadblocks to teaching children at home.

In New Jersey, for example, parents must get permission from local school authorities. And in Michigan, parents

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must have a teaching certificate to homeschool. Michigan is the only state with such a requirement, and homeschoolers there are working to overturn the regulation.

The Homeschool Legal Defense Association based in Peaonian, Va., provides low-cost legal advice and services to families who run into problems with the law. Reflecting the learning-at-home boom, the association is experiencing enormous growth. Two years ago, it had 18,000 members. Today, it has more than 28,000 members.

The association has come to the aid of homeschoolers such as Jackson Taylor. The NCAA declared the University of Akron freshman linebacker academically ineligible. Taylor, who was homeschooled by his parents using materials from Christian Liberty Academy, was forced to give up his scholarship four days before his first game of the season. The NCAA thought that he used homeschooling courses to inflate his grades, because his A-minus grades didn't jibe with his college board scores.

Within hours of the NCAA's

announcement, the Homeschool Legal Defense Association jumped to Taylor's defense and conferred with NCAA officials. Apparently, the NCAA was unaware of the Christian Liberty's extensive accreditation. Two weeks later, the NCAA reinstated Taylor's scholarship.

The association, along with the National Center for Homeschooling, has also been trying to convince the Department of Defense (DoD) to accept homeschooling.

According to the National Center, homeschooled students are not recognized as bona fide high school graduates by the Department of Defense, no matter how well they do on the Armed Services National Battery test.

Last July, Inge Cannon, associate director for the National Center, met with Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney to explain the difficulties that homeschooled students encounter when they try to enlist in the military. The National Center is still waiting to hear from DoD on the matter.

THE FUTURE

For all the obstacles that home-

schoolers still encounter, the signs of the times indicate the homeschooling movement will continue to gain momentum.

Parents who are considering educating their children at home now have numerous magazines, books, support groups and organizations to turn to for guidance and support. School districts nationwide are even providing resources such as library access to their local homeschoolers. And many public schools permit homeschoolers to play on their sports teams.

Does this booming homeschooling trend point to an ever greater failure of the public schools? Many parents say yes. "A mass exodus to alternative forms of education is in the offing," predicts one homeschooling parent. Proof of such an exodus can already be seen on a T-shirt popular among thousands of homeschoolers. It reads:

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AIDS

Continued from page 29

An especially candid response comes from Dr. William Darrow, one of the first to recognize AIDS as a sexually transmitted disease. "It was mainly political," says Darrow, now chief of the CD's Behavioral and Prevention Research branch. "It was intended to improve access to health-care services for women and other groups who felt they were not getting their fair share, and they brought a lot of pressure to bear."

The National Cancer Institute's Dr. Biggar notes that similar revisions were enacted in 1985 and 1987, affecting the number of reported AIDS cases.

Much the same way, other common assumptions and perceptions about AIDS are often based on nonsequiturs or, in varying degrees, on evidence that amounts to less than meets the eye.

"AIDS is out of control." The World Health Organization (WHO)

forecasts that by 2000, between 25 million and 30 million people worldwide will be infected with AIDS. In some African nations, AIDS is already widespread. Uganda bears the inglorious distinction of being the world's foremost AIDS hotbed. WHO reports 34,611 confirmed cases of AIDS in a nation of just 17 million—an astounding incidence of 1 in 500.

However, the African outbreaks on which the bleakest projections are based may not be relevant to circumstances elsewhere. Sanitation and medical hygiene in Third World nations leave much to be desired. Questions have also been raised about whether African men declaring themselves heterosexual are, in fact, *exclusively* heterosexual; even sporadic episodes of bisexuality markedly heighten the risk of contracting AIDS.

"You can't compare Kinshasa [Zaire] with middle-America," says Biggar.

"AIDS is now cutting a wide swath through the American mainstream." CDC says that through September 1992, about a quarter of a million AIDS cases had been reported in the United States — of those, 160,372 have died. The CDC estimates that 1

The Terminology of AIDS

Continued from page 29

of migrating to internal organs. KS was found in a remarkable number of early AIDS patients, but for some unknown reason, is less common today.

OI: Opportunistic Infections. Microbial diseases that take hold in people whose immune systems are severely weakened. These infections are the ultimate cause of death in AIDS patients.

PCP: Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia. A type of OI, PCP is a rare form of pneumonia, almost never fatal in people other than AIDS victims.

T-CELLS: T-lymphocytes. There are two types: T-helper cells, which mobilize the immune system to fight specific diseases, and T-suppressor cells, which shut the immune system off. AIDS destroys the helper cells.—S.S. □

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million Americans now carry the HIV virus, and at least 5 percent of them per year will develop full-blown AIDS.⁵

Yet, the vast majority of cases continue to occur among the same risk groups originally identified with the epidemic: gay men, 58 percent; and IV drug users, 23 percent.⁶ Heterosexuals account for just 6 percent of the mix.⁷

"AIDS is not getting its due from the government." An argument can be made that AIDS' image as America's "forgotten epidemic" is an impression scripted largely — and quite literally — in Hollywood, where AIDS is a cause célèbre. The disease has taken a heavy toll there, and industry icons make impassioned speeches at every opportunity.

Further, the public's fascination with the entertainment world means that when a Rock Hudson or a Liberace or a Nureyev succumbs to AIDS, the impact in publicity for the cause is immeasurable.

But it's also misleading. With a national death rate of 11.8 individuals per 100,000, AIDS ranks nowhere near many other diseases as a killer. Together, heart disease, 283.3 per 100,000, and cancer, at 202.9, account for about half of all deaths.⁸ Even in California, with its large gay population, the AIDS mortality rate swelled

by slightly less than 10 percent in 1993 — about the same level of increase as the homicide rate.⁹

Worldwide, about 2.8 million people have died of AIDS since the HIV virus was first isolated; by contrast, malaria kills almost 2 million people annually.¹⁰

The fact is that the \$2.9 billion spent by the government on AIDS research¹¹ last year represented an allocation of 13 times as much, per fatality, as was spent on cancer.¹²

"New means of AIDS transmission keep cropping up." The unfortunate case of Kimberly Bergalis, a young Florida woman who apparently contracted AIDS from her dentist, not only generated national headlines, but sparked a panic over the "ease" by which the disease can be spread by health-care professionals.

Although the tragedy changed the practice of dentistry in America, Biggar suspects that Bergalis and four others were "intentionally infected" by the dentist, David Acer. Outside of the Acer case, the CDC has no evidence of a single instance in which transmission of AIDS occurred during dental work.

Mike Hughes of the California Office of AIDS agrees. "There is no growing body of scientific literature to heighten suspicion that practitioner-to-patient is a potential means of transmission," he says.

The CDC is preparing a study of 84 patients who turned up HIV-positive after treatment by AIDS-infected health-care professionals. In her preliminary report, CDC staffer Dr. Mary Chamberland echoes Hughes remarks.¹³

As for the future, a dispassionate look at the AIDS phenomenon leaves room for much greater optimism than headlines might suggest.

"We're at the crest of this thing, and in a few years, you're going to see a distinct falling-off," declares Biggar. "It's a matter of the nature of the behaviors involved in spreading AIDS, and the self-limiting life cycle of the epidemic in that population."

That's a delicate way of saying that AIDS singled out gays because anal sex provides a more efficient means of passing the virus from one host to another. Rectal sodomy brings infected semen into contact with tiny fissures commonly found in the anus, thus "injecting" the virus directly into the bloodstream.

Promiscuity, rampant in gay circles until the mid-'80s, compounds the risk simply because the more sexual

encounters one has, the greater the odds of exposure.

"The fact is that a lot of the people who were driving this epidemic are going to be moving out of the picture," says Biggar. "Put bluntly, they're going to die off." Once that occurs, the frequency of new infections should slow dramatically.

Actually, that trend may already be underway. While it's true that the per-capita frequency of AIDS is still increasing, the rate of increase has slowed in each of the past two years.¹⁴ Biggar emphasizes that many of the "new" cases we're seeing now are the result of infections that took place in the mid-'80s, "when many gay males still weren't taking the AIDS threat seriously."

Today, however, gays face a clear choice—abandon high-risk behaviors or perish—either one of which will stem the spread of disease.

Darrow is less sure about how quickly the threat will abate, but he doesn't expect to see "anywhere near the same rate of secondary and tertiary infection among heterosexuals that we saw in the gay population."

Even Dr. Dan William, a long-time AIDS activist whose New York prac-

tice concerns itself primarily with gay men's health issues, says, "I think the epidemic has peaked."

More encouraging news:

- "AIDS is not infectious in the normal way," Surgeon General Novello admits. "You get it only through sex, blood contact or IV drug use." And surprisingly enough, AIDS has what immunologists call a "low contagion coefficient." In the 17 years since carriers of the HIV virus first were documented in West Africa, there have been a number of cases in which only one member of a heterosexual couple developed AIDS despite many years of unprotected sex.

- Society is taking steps to protect its low-risk members from the negligence or malfeasance of high-risk members. Many states have amended laws to include felony charges against AIDS sufferers who knowingly place other individuals at risk.

Similarly, a San Diego jury exonerated a doctor who had refused to provide specialized medical treatment that would help an AIDS-infected homosexual conquer impotence. The jury reasoned that by denying the man the capacity to transmit his deadly

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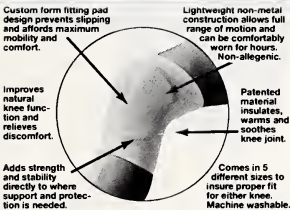
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AIDS

Continued from page 69

affliction to others, the doctor was "acting in the best interests of public health."¹⁵

• The scientific community has made definite inroads against AIDS. "In 1987, no one lived more than two years after the first episode of *Pneumocystis*," says AIDS activist William. Today, thanks to a variety of drug treatments, "people live more than five years after their first episode," he says.

Most experts feel that a preventive vaccine will be developed within a few years. The search for an actual cure has been complicated by the fact that "the virus changes about every 30 minutes," says CDC's Dr. Darrow. "This is a very smart virus, and we never know what it's likely to do next."

The drug, VaxSyn, is about to be tested in Sweden for its ability to reverse AIDS in people already infected.¹⁶ That, of course, would be a major

breakthrough.

In the meantime, Biggar and Darrow agree, monogamous heterosexuals enjoy virtual foolproof protection against the most common means of AIDS transmission. Granted, it's a question of how long you've been monogamous. Given the extraordinary incubation period, it's possible that a person involved in a committed relationship today may already have contracted the disease years ago.

But, says Biggar, if you've been with someone faithfully for 10 years and neither of you test positive for the virus, then the danger of getting AIDS from each other is nil. He adds that even as far as infidelity is concerned, "while I hesitate to say anything that might encourage high-risk behavior, the odds of getting AIDS from a single heterosexual encounter are maybe one in a million."

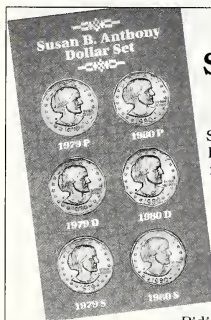
Sexual restraint offers no protection against contaminated blood from a blood transfusion, but such blood seldom gets past screening procedures now used universally. Even though the AIDS virus continues to mutate into strains that are not so easily detectable through the accepted tests, the risk remains slight.

Between 1984 and 1992, there were 3,156 AIDS-related deaths due to blood transfusions¹⁷ — this in a population of over 3.5 million transfusion recipients per year.¹⁸ Further, in many of those cases, the virus was contracted pre-screening. "It's a cliché but it's true," says William. These days, "You're in greater danger each time you get behind the wheel of your car."

Darrow offers similar reassurances to members of the active military who may be concerned about an increased number of gay enlistees. "First of all, closet gays have been in the military for a long time, and we haven't seen any epidemic of AIDS," he says. Second, soldiers are checked for HIV on an annual basis.

Third, as Biggar wryly puts it, "In order for transmission of the disease to occur in battlefield conditions, you'd have to have a situation where two soldiers had major gross injuries that were abutting one another for a period of time. Beyond that, having two people who happen to be losing blood adjacent to one another is far from the most efficient means of communicating the virus." None of which implies that people needn't be vigilant, or shouldn't take every possible precaution, says Darrow.

He sums it up this way: "I think the hysteria of the mid-'80s was completely unwarranted. But I also remember two or three years before that there was apathy and neglect, and we see where that got us. I think the proper attitude toward AIDS should be somewhere in between." □



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¹ Roper Organization/Washington Post.
² Although some AIDS patients have cheated death for more than a decade, they are living on borrowed time, experts agree.

³ Los Angeles Times interview, 1/12/92.
⁴ San Diego Union, "New AIDS Reports Are Now Urged," 1/18/93.

⁵ Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), 9/92.

⁶ Parade, "What Keeps Me Alive," 1/31/93.

⁷ Parade, op. cit.

⁸ All figures here from National Center for Health Statistics.

⁹ San Diego Union Tribune, 1/26/93.

¹⁰ Funk & Wagnall's Science Yearbook, 1992.

¹¹ National Center for Health Statistics (FY 1991 figure).

¹² "Harper's Index," Harper's 2/93. Also supported by figures from National Center for Health Statistics.

¹³ "Should Patients Be Told?" San Diego Union-Tribune, 1/31/93.

¹⁴ Survey of various MMWRs, 1989-1992.

¹⁵ San Diego Union, 1/23/93, p. A-1.

¹⁶ New York Times, 2/4/93, p. A-9.

¹⁷ National Center for Health Statistics. Total AIDS cases (not deaths) during that same period: 4,062.

¹⁸ Randy Shilts, And The Band Played On, p. 223.

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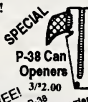
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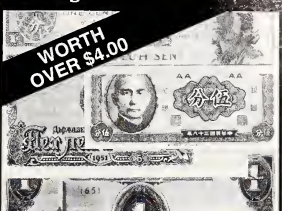
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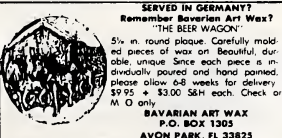
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IN SEARCH OF...

This column is for readers searching for groups of veterans for purposes other than forming a reunion (use VETS column) or to find witnesses to verify VA health claims (use COMRADES IN DISTRESS column). No notices seeking information about relatives or friends will be published. Notices are published free, on a space-available basis.

WWII veterans to participate in survey. Contact Director, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Veterans Surveys Project, Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013, or call (717) 245-4113.

101st Paratroopers who knew Major Fry, a provost marshal at a replacement camp near Caserta, Italy, during WWII, for historical research. Contact: Jim Brindisi, 1517 Western Ave., #201, Chicago Heights, IL 60411. **Africa/Italy airmen** who have information on Padre Pio flying over Italy in WWII, for a book. Contact Robert B. Coble, 5504 N. Mountain View Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92407.

Artifacts, photos, documents involving U.S. military in Trinidad during WWII, for museum. Contact Gaylord T.M. Kelshall, Chaucer's Military History & Aviation Museum, P.O. Box 3126, Caranage, Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies.

Crew members of USS Benjamin Franklin who knew Joseph T. ("Father Joe") O'Callahan during the 1940s, for a book. Or anyone who served aboard the USS Joseph T. O'Callahan. Contact Ms. Lee Crane, 3050 E. Sunrise Lakes Dr., #207, Sunrise, FL 33322, (305) 748-4178.

Former members of 1st Platoon, 3133rd Signal Service Co. Have photo dated November 1944 at Pine Camp, N.Y. Contact Becky Lahaine, 4900 Hilltop Rd., Harrisburg, PA 17111.

Graves Registration personnel involved in recovering American airmen shot down in Europe during WWII, for a book. Contact Robert I. Miller, 4670 Frederick St., Omaha, NE 68106.

Information about a ship's bell and plaque donated by the Keansage Association of Fall River, Mass., in 1936. Contact T.W. Smith, USS Kearsarge Ass'n, 1172 Nelson Ct., Clarkston, GA 30021.

Information about the "Hells Henchman" B-17, 401st BG, WWII, for research. Contact Mike Meryman, 2613 Foron Rd., Centralia, WA 98531.

Information on the 477th AAA (AW) Bn, that departed Camp Stewart, Ga., in September 1943 for Pacific duty. Contact Henry P. Welzien, 6531 N. Waukeasha Ave., Chicago, IL 60646.

Manuals, photos, literature on M422, M422-A1 (Mighty Mile), for museum. Contact L.J. Fleckenstein, 405 Edgewood Ave., Johnston, PA 15906-2817.

Memorabilia and artifacts of coastal defense units at Fort Stevens, Oregon, during Civil War, WWI and WWII, for a museum. Contact Gate Hermmen, P.O. Box 138, Hammond, OR 97121.

Photos of net tendering and tugging operations conducted by YTB-347 at Trinidad, BWI, 1944-46. Contact John Laughlin, 805 Crestview Rd., G-5, Cocoa, FL 32922.

Thomas P. Cox, U.S. 5622003. Found photo album belonging to him. Circa 1954, from Camp Wood, Kyushu, Japan. Contact Michael F. Hagerman, 1350 Fairbanks Ct., Dixon, CA 95620.

WWII sailors and seagoing Marines aboard ships during combat in the Pacific, for a book. Also members of the Navy Armed Guard and Navy personnel who trained them. Contact Gate Adams, 801 Manchester Ave., Westchester, IL 60154.

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Motherly Extremes

Mothers always seem to be alarmists. If one of their children coughs, it's TB. A headache means nothing less than a tumor. And one lie, and the child is destined for Congress.

Pooling Resources

If the energy tax is enacted, the cost of operating a car will be so high that lawyers will have to start car pooling behind ambulances.

Trading For The Lord

The Bible says we came into this world without riches, and we shall take no riches with us to the next. So, in a sense, stock brokers are just doing the Lord's work.

Kidding Around

A man and his guide went on a fishing trip in the Canadian Rockies, and as they sat around the campfire the first night, the guide pulled out a bottle of whiskey and offered the man a drink. The man said, "Thanks, but I never drink."

"Why not?" the guide asked.

"Well, in front of kids, I don't want to set a bad example. And away from kids, who needs to drink?"

Doggone Season

A dog biscuit company is coming out with a line of baseball cards showing players with their dogs. One shows a player with his cocker spaniel and another one has a player with his golden retriever. And then there's the entire Mets team with their seeing-eye dogs.

Fare Wager

Some airlines are considering setting up in-flight gambling operations on their planes. The way it'll work is passengers will place a bet on how much of their luggage will be waiting when they arrive.

Head Games

A junior officer at the Pentagon was a hard worker, and he had a very nice, well-furnished office. However, he began behaving strangely. First he moved his desk out into the space also occupied by his secretary's desk. Then a few days later, as he was leaving for the day, he pushed his desk out into one of the many long corridors. He worked there for a few days, and then he shoved his desk into the men's room and set up work there.

All of this had not escaped the notice of his fellow workers. It seemed more and more strange to them, so

strange they did not dare ask the officer himself what he was doing. Instead, they went to the division psychiatrist and asked him to ask the officer.

So the psychiatrist walked into the men's room, sat on the edge of the officer's desk, and asked, "Why have you kept moving your desk? Especially, why into the men's room?"

"Well," said the officer, "I figure that this is the only place in the Pentagon where they know what they're doing."

Belted

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